

№ 6
JUNE-JULY

Lovelorn

STIRRING STORIES of REAL ROMANCE

10¢

LET---ME---GO! YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT A COMMON
SLAVE---HOW **DARE** YOU
FORCE YOUR KISSES ON
ME?

A SLAVE, MILADY--- BUT A MAN, TOO!
ADMIT TO THE DUKE THAT WE **LOVE**
EACH OTHER---AND LET HIM DO
HIS WORST!

CAN A MAN
REACH UP FROM
THE DEPTHS OF
LIFE AND SEEK HIS
HEART'S ROMANCE IN A
GILDED PALACE?

Read
"SWEETHEART of a
SLAVE"

---AND THRILL TO THE
STRANGE
ANSWER!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

HAVE A SLIMMER YOUTHFUL FEMININE APPEARANCE INSTANTLY! **REDUCE**

Don't look old before your time. Do as thousands of others do, wear a comfortable new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT! The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, with the amazing new adjustable front panel, controls your figure the way you want it, with added support where you need it most. Simply adjust the laces and PRESTO your mid section is reshaped and your back braced and you look and feel younger!



**Your Appearance!
Look and Feel Like
Sixteen Again!**

No other girdle or supporter belt has more hold-in power! The Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt is the newest, most comfortable girdle I ever had.

More Up-Lift and Hold-in Power!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT takes weight off tired feet and gives you a more alluring, more darily feminine, curvaceous figure the instant you put it on. It gives you lovely curves just in the right places, with no unwanted bulges in the wrong ones. It whittles your waistline to nothingness, no matter what shape you may now have. It's easily adjusted - always comfortable!

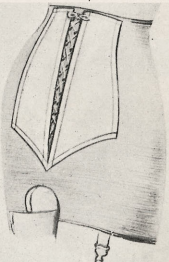
Test the ADJUST-O-BELT Up-Lift Principle with Your Own Hands!

Clasp your hands over your abdomen, press upwards and in gently but firmly. You feel better don't you! That's just what the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT does for you, only the ADJUST-O-BELT does it better. Mail Coupon and test it at home for 10 days FREE at our expense!

Appear Slimmer, and Feel Better!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT lifts and flattens unsightly bulges, comfortably, quickly, firmly. It readjusts easily to changes in your figure, yet no laces touch your body. It gives instant slenderizing figure control. It fashionably shapes your figure to its slimmest lines. Like magic the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT obeys your every wish. Pounds and inches seem to disappear instantly from waist, hips and thighs. You can adjust it to your slimmed down figure as your figure changes. It gives the same fit and comfort you get from a made to order costing 2 or 3 times the price. It washes like a dream.

Style: Panty and regular. Colors: Nude and white. It's made of the finest stretch material used in any girdle, with a pure satin front panel and made by the most skilled craftsmen. It's light in weight, but powerfully strong. It won't roll up, bulge or curl at the top. It gives extra-double support where you need it most. No other girdle at any price can give you better support, can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer. Sizes 24 to 48 waist. Only.....\$3.98



You will look like and feel like this beautiful model in your new and improved Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE WITH A 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT isn't better than any supporter you ever had, if you don't feel more comfortable, if you don't look and feel younger, if your shape isn't 100% IMPROVED, if you are not delighted with it, return it and your money will be refunded in full.

FREE: New amazing NYLON laces will be sent free with your order. Try them instead of your regular laces. You may keep them FREE even if you return the girdle.

SEND NO MONEY

ADJUST-O-BELT CO., Dept. 270
1025 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Rush your new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT for \$3.98 in size and style check.

- ☐ Regular. ☐ Panty.
☐ C.O.D. I will pay postage, plus handling. ☐ I enclose \$3.98. You pay postage, plus handling.
CHECK SIZE: ☐ Sm. (25-26). ☐ Med. (27-28).
☐ Lg. (29-30). ☐ XL (31-32). ☐ XXL (34-36).
☐ XXXL (38-40). ☐ XXXXL (42-44). ☐ 5X (46-48).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zone _____ State _____

I understand if not delighted with the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, I can return it in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

SENT ON APPROVAL!

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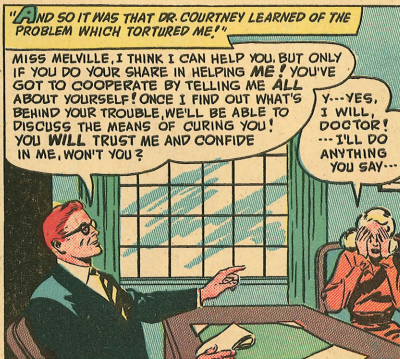


"WHAT IS ROMANCE BUT A THING OF
TENDERNESS? MOST GIRLS CHERISH IT,
BRING TO IT THEIR ALL IN GENTE DEVOT-
ION---BUT I, LOIS MELVILLE, WAS
DIFFERENT! WITHIN ME DWELT A
STRANGE, INSIDIOUS COMPULSION, A
SURGING FORCE BEYOND MY CONTROL
---AND RELENTLESSLY, IT DROVE ME
TO HURT, EVEN DESTROY, THE OBJECT
OF MY LOVE! MUST WE TURN AGAINST
THOSE WE CARE FOR? THE
QUESTION TORTURED ME---AND SO---"



I---I CAN'T **STAND** IT ANY LONGER!
I KEEP SEEING **THEIR** FACES ALL
AROUND ME---THE FACES OF THE
MEN I LOVED AND **HURT**---ACCUSING
ME, **CONDEMNING** ME! I--- I'M
GOING OUT OF MY MIND! I **MUST**
HAVE HELP---**NOW**---BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE! AND THERE'S ONLY
ONE SOURCE FOR THE ADVICE
AND HELP I NEED---A
PSYCHIATRIST!

EDWARD J. COURTNEY, M.D.
PSYCHIATRIST



"**AND SO IT WAS THAT DR. COURTNEY LEARNED OF THE
PROBLEM WHICH TORTURED ME!**"

MISS MELVILLE, I THINK I CAN HELP YOU, BUT ONLY
IF YOU DO YOUR SHARE IN **HELPING ME!** YOU'VE
GOT TO COOPERATE BY TELLING ME **ALL**
ABOUT YOURSELF! ONCE I FIND OUT WHAT'S
BEHIND YOUR TROUBLE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO
DISCUSS THE MEANS OF CURING YOU!
YOU **WILL** TRUST ME AND CONFIDE
IN ME, WON'T YOU?

Y---YES,
I WILL,
DOCTOR!
---I'LL DO
ANYTHING
YOU SAY---

"**I** DID TRUST HIM...INSTINCTIVELY, WHOLE-HEARTEDLY! HIS VERY FACE SPOKE ELOQUENTLY OF KINDNESS AND WISDOM, AND HIS VOICE WAS STRANGELY GENTLE AND SOOTHING! YES, IF ANYONE COULD HELP ME, **THIS MAN COULD!**"

JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO SPEAK FREELY, WITHOUT ANY INHIBITIONS AND WITHOUT HOLDING ANYTHING BACK FROM ME, YOU CAN RELAX ON THIS COUCH WHILE YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF!

VERY WELL!



THAT'S IT! NOW THEN, JUST START TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR MEMORIES ---AND TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT COMES INTO YOUR MIND! REMEMBER... **EVERYTHING!**

ALL...ALL RIGHT! I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO START...BUT I GUESS IT OUGHT TO BE AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER! MY...MY EARLIEST MEMORIES ARE OF MY FATHER...AND THOSE MEMORIES ARE ETCHED IN BURNING ACID ON MY MIND! I CAN STILL SEE IT ALL AS CLEARLY AS IF IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...

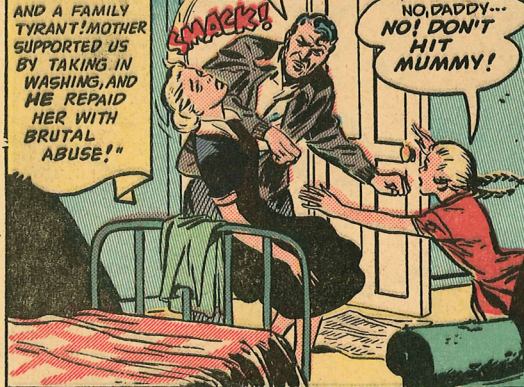


"MY FATHER WAS A CHRONIC DRUNKARD...AND A FAMILY TYRANT! MOTHER SUPPORTED US BY TAKING IN WASHINGS, AND HE REPAID HER WITH BRUTAL ABUSE!"

GET OUTA MY WAY! I'M GOIN' DOWN TO THE TAVERN, SEE...AN' YOU AIN'T STOPPIN' ME!

SMACK!

NO, DADDY... NO! DON'T HIT MUMMY!



YA LI'L BRAT...GET OUTA MY SIGHT AFORE I TAKE TH' WHIP TO YA!

SLAP!



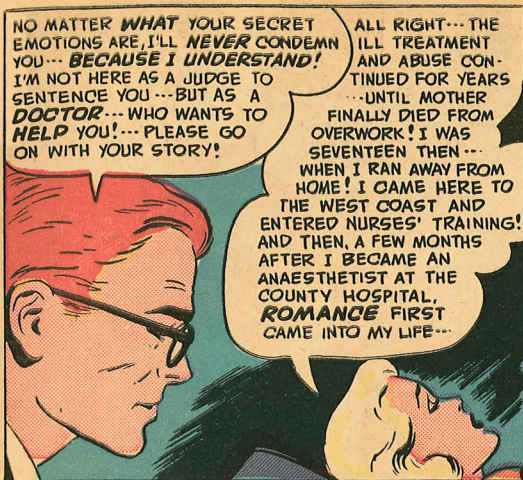
I HATE YOU...I HATE YOU!



I...I KNOW IT'S **WRONG** TO HATE ONE'S FATHER...AND I STILL FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT! BUT I CAN'T HELP MYSELF...I **STILL** HATE HIM WHEN I THINK OF THE CRUELTY AND HARD-SHIPS MOTHER AND I SUFFERED AT HIS HAND! DOCTOR...IS IT **WRONG** TO HATE A MAN LIKE THAT?

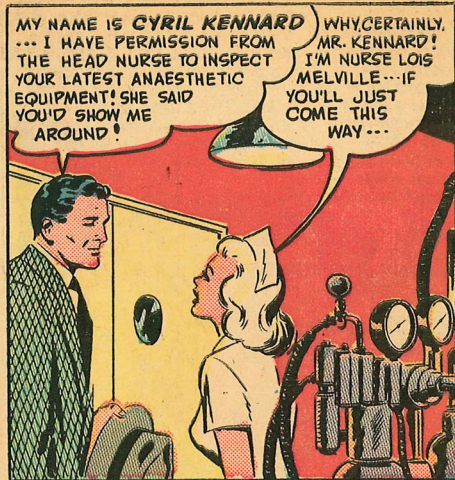
YOU WANT ME TO CONDEMN AND DESPISE YOU AS YOUR **CONSCIENCE** DOES, DON'T YOU? WELL, I'M AFRAID I **CAN'T**...I KNOW TOO MUCH OF THE SECRETS OF THE HUMAN HEART...TOO MUCH OF ALL THE HATE AND HOSTILITY THAT **EVERYONE** HAS HIDDEN DEEP IN HIS HEART! YOUR FEELINGS AREN'T ABNORMAL...THEY'RE **HUMAN!**





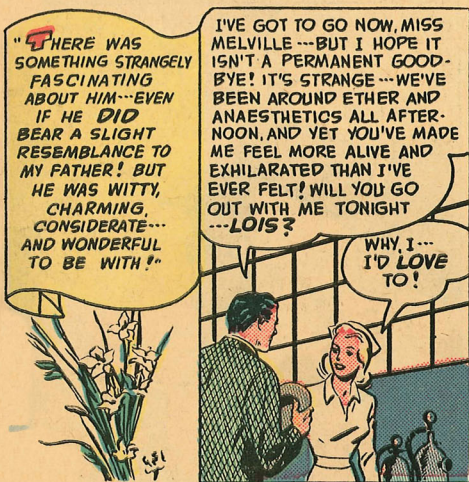
NO MATTER *WHAT* YOUR SECRET EMOTIONS ARE, I'LL *NEVER* CONDEMN YOU... **BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND!** I'M NOT HERE AS A JUDGE TO SENTENCE YOU... BUT AS A **DOCTOR**... WHO WANTS TO **HELP** YOU!... PLEASE GO ON WITH YOUR STORY!

ALL RIGHT... THE ILL TREATMENT AND ABUSE CONTINUED FOR YEARS... UNTIL MOTHER FINALLY DIED FROM OVERWORK! I WAS SEVENTEEN THEN... WHEN I RAN AWAY FROM HOME! I CAME HERE TO THE WEST COAST AND ENTERED NURSES' TRAINING! AND THEN, A FEW MONTHS AFTER I BECAME AN ANAESTHETIST AT THE COUNTY HOSPITAL, **ROMANCE** FIRST CAME INTO MY LIFE...



MY NAME IS **CYRIL KENNARD**... I HAVE PERMISSION FROM THE HEAD NURSE TO INSPECT YOUR LATEST ANAESTHETIC EQUIPMENT! SHE SAID YOU'D SHOW ME AROUND!

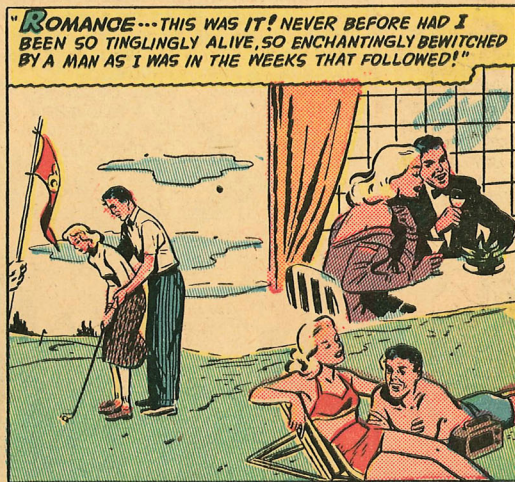
WHY, CERTAINLY, MR. KENNARD! I'M NURSE **LOIS MELVILLE**... IF YOU'LL JUST COME THIS WAY...



"THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGELY FASCINATING ABOUT HIM... EVEN IF HE **DID** BEAR A SLIGHT RESEMBLANCE TO MY FATHER! BUT HE WAS WITTY, CHARMING, CONSIDERATE... AND WONDERFUL TO BE WITH!"

I'VE GOT TO GO NOW, MISS MELVILLE... BUT I HOPE IT ISN'T A PERMANENT GOOD-BYE! IT'S STRANGE... WE'VE BEEN AROUND EACH OTHER AND ANAESTHETICS ALL AFTERNOON, AND YET YOU'VE MADE ME FEEL MORE ALIVE AND EXHILARATED THAN I'VE EVER FELT! WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME TONIGHT... **LOIS?**

WHY, I... I'D LOVE TO!

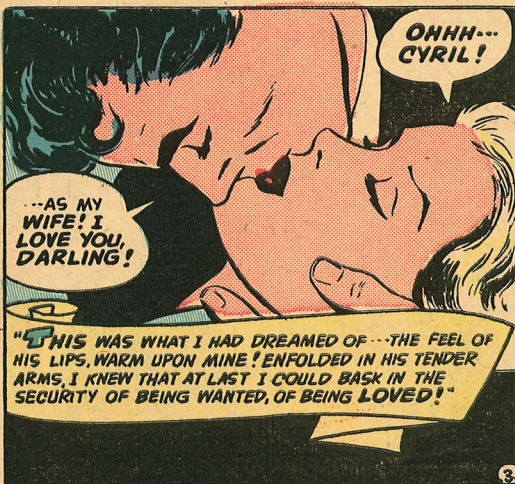


"**ROMANCE**... THIS WAS IT! NEVER BEFORE HAD I BEEN SO TINGLINGLY ALIVE, SO ENCHANTINGLY BEWITCHED BY A MAN AS I WAS IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED!"



"**LAND ONE NIGHT...**"

I'VE GOT GREAT NEWS FOR YOU, **LOIS**... FOR **US!** FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, I'VE SUNK EVERY CENT I COULD BEG OR BORROW INTO MY RESEARCH FOR A NEW, IMMENSELY IMPROVED ANAESTHETIC... I EVEN WENT IN DEBT FOR OVER \$50,000! BUT NOW... **SUCCESS** IS MINE! THE FORMULA IS COMPLETELY TESTED... AND AN ENORMOUS ACHIEVEMENT! AND I WANT **YOU** TO SHARE IT WITH ME...



OH... **CYRIL!**

...AS MY WIFE! I LOVE YOU, DARLING!

"THIS WAS WHAT I HAD DREAMED OF... THE FEEL OF HIS LIPS, WARM UPON MINE! ENFOLDED IN HIS TENDER ARMS, I KNEW THAT AT LAST I COULD BASK IN THE SECURITY OF BEING WANTED, OF BEING LOVED!"



OH, DEAREST, OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU... I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU! I WANT TO SHARE YOUR INTERESTS, LEARN ABOUT YOUR GREAT NEW FORMULA...

I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU WITH IT, DEAR! IT'S THE CH₂ RADICAL... TRI-CYCLO-PROPANE! ALL I'M WAITING FOR IS THE MONEY TO PAY A GOOD PATENT LAWYER... AND AS SOON AS I GET THE PATENT AND START PRODUCTION, WE'LL BE ON EASY STREET!



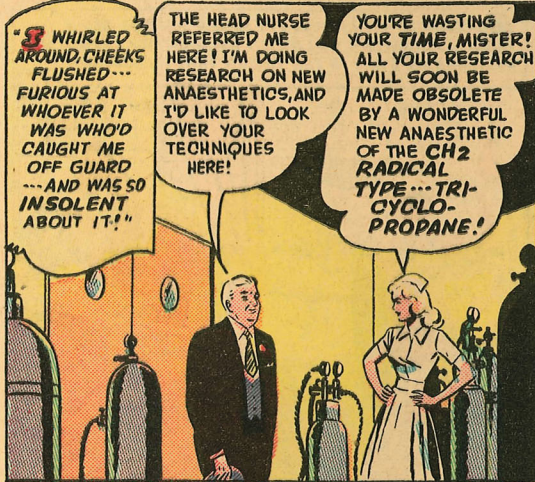
"THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE A GOLDEN DREAM... A GLORIOUSLY HAPPY DREAM THAT HAD BECOME REALITY! EVEN AT MY WORK, I SLIPPED OFF INTO BLISSFUL DAYDREAMS OF MY ROMANCE..."



MY BELOVED...

...SIGH!... I LOVE YOU SO...

AHEM! AS SOON AS YOU'RE THROUGH HUGGING THAT TANK, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU!



"I WHIRLED AROUND, CHEEKS FLUSHED... FURIOUS AT WHOEVER IT WAS WHO'D CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD... AND WAS SO INSOLENT ABOUT IT!"

THE HEAD NURSE REFERRED ME HERE! I'M DOING RESEARCH ON NEW ANAESTHETICS, AND I'D LIKE TO LOOK OVER YOUR TECHNIQUES HERE!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, MISTER! ALL YOUR RESEARCH WILL SOON BE MADE OBSOLETE BY A WONDERFUL NEW ANAESTHETIC OF THE CH₂ RADICAL TYPE... TRI-CYCLO-PROPANE!



HMMM, TRI-CYCLO-PROPANE, EH? COULD BE... ER, WELL, I'VE GOT TO RUN ALONG NOW, MISS!

OH... I... I TOLD HIM... I WAS SO ANXIOUS TO LORD IT OVER HIM THAT I GAVE HIM THE FORMULA! I... I HOPE CYRIL DOESN'T FIND OUT!

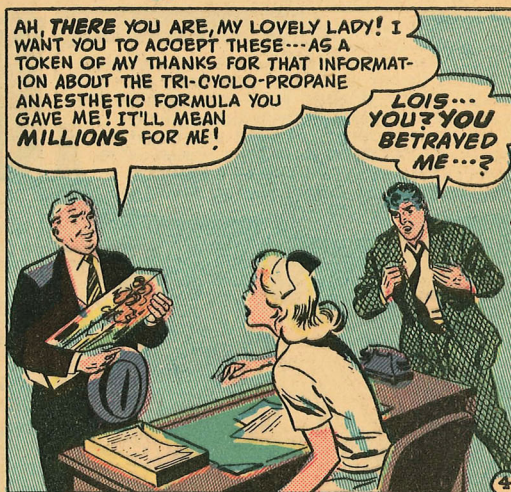


"I FORCED MYSELF TO FORGET THE ENTIRE INCIDENT UNTIL ONE DAY, TWO WEEKS LATER..."

LOIS... SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED... I'VE LOST EVERYTHING! I... I WAITED TOO LONG... I JUST MANAGED TO SCRAPE UP THE PATENT LAWYER'S FEE... ONLY TO LEARN THAT SOMEONE BEAT ME TO IT... SOMEONE APPLIED FOR THE SAME FORMULA PATENT AHEAD OF ME! MY SEVEN YEARS OF LABOR... ALL THOSE DEBTS... ALL FOR NOTHING! I'M RUINED!

OH, NO, DARLING! HOW AWFUL! HOW... HOW COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED...?

KNOCK! KNOCK!



AH, THERE YOU ARE, MY LOVELY LADY! I WANT YOU TO ACCEPT THESE... AS A TOKEN OF MY THANKS FOR THAT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRI-CYCLO-PROPANE ANAESTHETIC FORMULA YOU GAVE ME! IT'LL MEAN MILLIONS FOR ME!

LOIS... YOU? YOU BETRAYED ME...?

YOU...YOU TREACHEROUS WRETCH!
ALL YOUR WORDS OF LOVE WERE LIES...
LIES! YOU JUST WANTED TO WORM THE
FORMULA OUT OF ME SO YOU COULD SELL
IT TO SOMEONE ELSE! YOU'RE BLACK-
HEARTED, DESPICABLE...AND I'LL
**CURSE YOU TILL THE DAY I
DIE!**

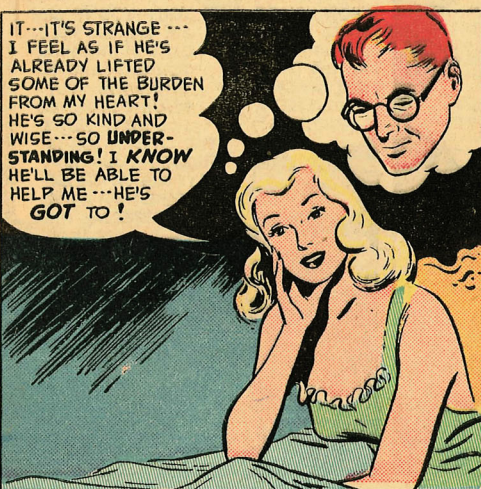


AND THEN THE
REALIZATION
CAME...THAT
SOMEHOW, I...
I HAD DONE IT
ALL **PURPOSELY**
...THAT I HAD
WANTED TO RUIN
AND HURT HIM...EVEN
THOUGH I **LOVED**
HIM! I DON'T KNOW
WHY I DID IT, I
CAN'T UNDERSTAND
MYSELF...AND I CAN'T
BEAR THE PAIN OF KNOW-
ING THAT HE WASN'T THE
ONLY ONE I'VE HURT!
DOCTOR...YOU **MUST**
HELP ME!

OF **COURSE** I WILL,
MISS MELVILLE...BY HELP-
ING YOU UNDERSTAND
YOURSELF! BUT I THINK
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR
TODAY...I'LL SEE YOU
AGAIN TOMORROW, AND
YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR
STORY!



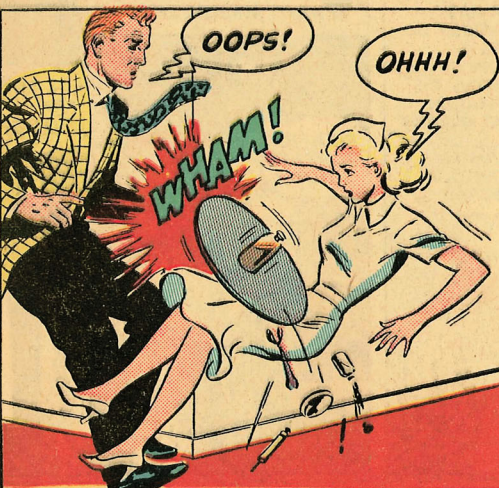
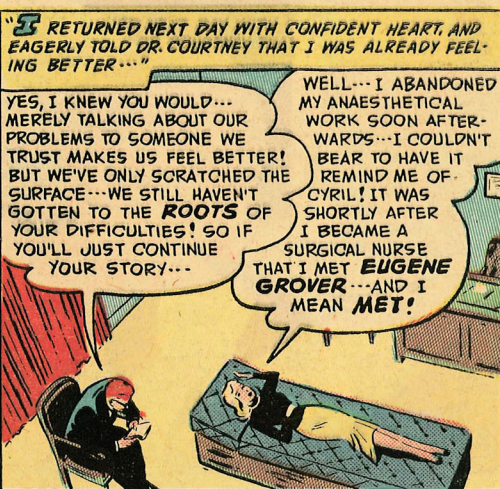
IT...IT'S STRANGE...
I FEEL AS IF HE'S
ALREADY LIFTED
SOME OF THE BURDEN
FROM MY HEART!
HE'S SO KIND AND
WISE...SO **UNDER-
STANDING!** I **KNOW**
HE'LL BE ABLE TO
HELP ME...HE'S
GOT TO!



"I RETURNED NEXT DAY WITH CONFIDENT HEART, AND
EAGERLY TOLD DR. COURTNEY THAT I WAS ALREADY FEEL-
ING BETTER..."

YES, I KNEW YOU WOULD...
MERELY TALKING ABOUT OUR
PROBLEMS TO SOMEONE WE
TRUST MAKES US FEEL BETTER!
BUT WE'VE ONLY SCRATCHED THE
SURFACE...WE STILL HAVEN'T
GOTTEN TO THE **ROOTS** OF
YOUR DIFFICULTIES! SO IF
YOU'LL JUST CONTINUE
YOUR STORY...

WELL...I ABANDONED
MY ANAESTHETICAL
WORK SOON AFTER-
WARDS...I COULDN'T
BEAR TO HAVE IT
REMINDE ME OF
CYRIL! IT WAS SHORTLY AFTER
I BECAME A
SURGICAL NURSE
THAT I MET **EUGENE
GROVER**...AND I
MEAN **MET!**



I CAN'T TRUTHFULLY SAY I'M **SORRY**
FOR BUMPING INTO YOU...YOU LOOK
DELIGHTFULLY LOVELY SITTING THERE!
I'LL HELP YOU UP ONLY ON ONE
CONDITION...THAT YOU LET ME
APOLOGIZE AT DINNER
TONIGHT!

WELL, I
CAN'T KEEP
SITTING HERE
ALL DAY...IT'S
A **DEAL!**



"THERE WAS SOMETHING ENTHRANCING ABOUT EUGENE... HIS SUPERB SENSE OF HUMOR, HIS DEVIL-MAY-CARE ATTITUDE, THE BOYISH WAY HE KEPT RUNNING HIS HANDS THROUGH HIS HAIR THE SAME WAY MY FATHER USED TO... **EVERYTHING** ABOUT HIM MADE ME WANT TO KNOW HIM BETTER... **MUCH BETTER!**"

TELL ME, WHAT WERE YOU DOING AT THE HOSPITAL... BESIDES KNOCKING DOWN NURSES YOU WANTED TO MEET?

OH, JUST ARRANGING FOR MY OPERATION NEXT MONTH... FOR A RARE EYE DISEASE THAT AFFECTS ME WITH OCCASIONAL BLIND SPELLS! THE EYE SPECIALIST ASSURED ME OF AN ABSOLUTE CURE... ALTHOUGH THE OPERATION WILL BE A DELICATE ONE! BUT RIGHT NOW, MY EYES ARE FEASTING ON THE LOVELIEST SIGHT THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN... SO LET'S TALK ABOUT **YOU!**

"I FORGOT THE TRAGEDY OF MY FIRST LOVE IN THE RAPTUROUS WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED! IT WAS AN ENCHANTED INTERLUDE, WITH MY HEART BEATING THE SOLE REFRAIN 'EUGENE... **EUGENE!**'"

DARLING, TOMORROW'S MY OPERATION... AND I **KNOW** IT'S GOING TO BE A SUCCESS! AFTER I'VE RECOVERED, I'M GOING ON AN AROUND-THE-WORLD TRIP... AND I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME... **AS MY BRIDE!**

"**HUNGRY** FOR THE LOVE THAT I'D BEEN CRUELLY DEPRIVED OF, YEARNING FOR THE STRENGTH AND COMFORT OF HIS EMBRACE, I MELTED INTO HIS ARMS! HIS KISSES STIRRED ME TO THE DEPTHS OF MY BEING... **FOR THIS WAS MY HUSBAND-TO-BE!**"

LOIS... MY DEAREST...

SWEET-HEART...

KNOW WHAT? WE'LL BE MARRIED RIGHT AFTER THE OPERATION IS DECLARED A SUCCESS!

YOU... YOU'VE MADE ME THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD TONIGHT! AND TO SHOW YOU HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU, I'LL MAKE **SURE** THE OPERATION IS SUCCESSFUL... BY GETTING **MYSELF** ASSIGNED AS YOUR SURGICAL NURSE!

"**NEXT DAY**, MY HEART WAS FILLED WITH A SURGING CONFIDENCE IN THE OUTCOME OF THE OPERATION... AND WITH SOMETHING ELSE... A STRANGE FEELING THAT I COULDN'T ANALYZE! BUT I HAD NO TIME TO PONDER ABOUT IT AS THE OPERATING SURGEON GAVE ME CAREFUL INSTRUCTIONS..."

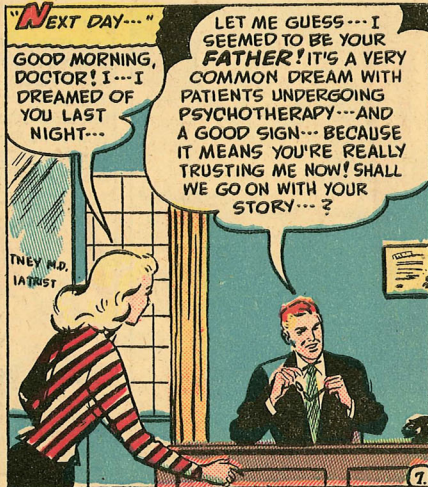
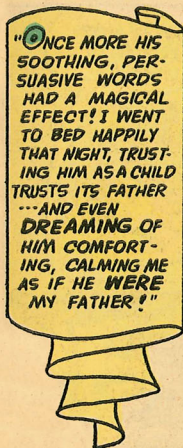
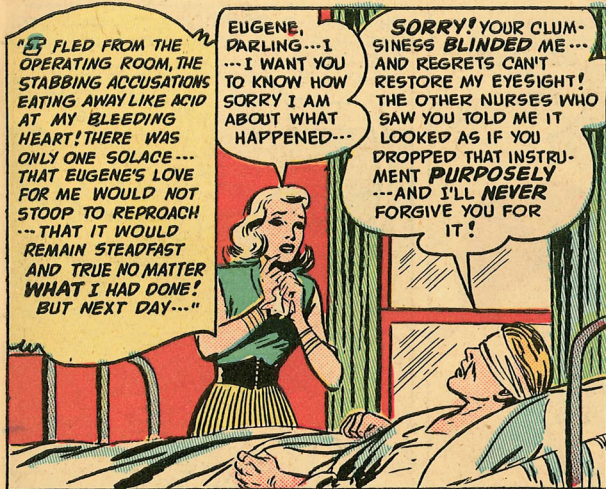
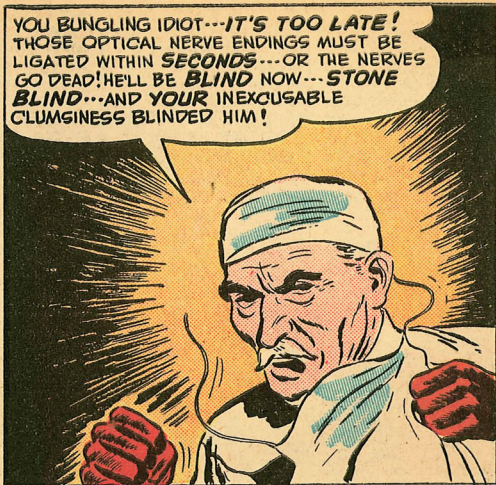
ALL RIGHT, NURSE, PUT ON YOUR MASK... AND REMEMBER... EVERYTHING **MUST** GO SMOOTHLY! SPLIT-SECOND TIMING IS **ESSENTIAL** IN A DELICATE OPERATION LIKE THIS! AND WHEN I'M LIGATING THE OPTICAL NERVES, GIVE ME THE FIXATION FORCEPS **INSTANTLY!** IS THAT CLEAR?

YES, DOCTOR... I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY!

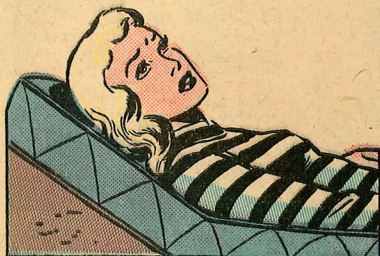
"**TWENTY MINUTES LATER...**"

FIXATION FORCEPS... NOW!

HERE THEY ARE... **OOOOPS!**



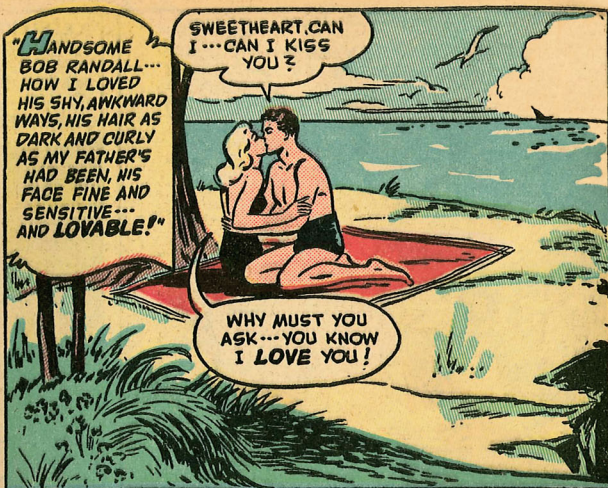
AFTER THAT SECOND TRAGEDY, I LEFT THE NURSING PROFESSION FOR GOOD, VOWING THAT I'D NEVER LET MYSELF GET INTO A POSITION WHERE I COULD HURT ANYONE AGAIN! I WAS VERY WARY OF FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN, BUT TRY AS HARD AS I COULD, I COULDN'T HELP FALLING FOR **BOB**...WHOM I CHANCED TO MEET AT A PARTY..."



"**HANDSOME BOB RANDALL**... HOW I LOVED HIS SHY, AWKWARD WAYS, HIS HAIR AS DARK AND CURLY AS MY FATHER'S HAD BEEN, HIS FACE FINE AND SENSITIVE... AND **LOVABLE!**"

SWEETHEART, CAN I... CAN I KISS YOU?

WHY MUST YOU ASK... YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU!



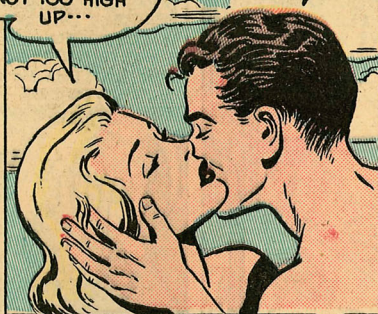
"AND THEN IT HAPPENED... ONLY LAST WEEK... THAT IDEA THAT ENDED IN... **DEATH!** WE WERE ON THE CLIFFS OVERLOOKING THE SEA, AND I HAD BEGUN TO TIRE OF BOB'S TIMID EMBRACES..."



LOIS, YOU... YOU'RE SO LOVELY, I'M SOMETIMES AFRAID TO KISS YOU... I CAN'T **BELIEVE**

I'VE GOT AN IDEA, BOB! LET'S DIVE OFF THE CLIFF INTO THE WATER... TOGETHER! IT'S NOT TOO HIGH UP...

WE'RE REALLY ENGAGED!



OH, **NO**... WE **CAN'T!** IT'S TOO DANGEROUS... LOOK AT THOSE ROCKS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TIME YOUR LEAP JUST AS THE WAVES ROLL IN, SO YOU'LL LAND IN THE WATER INSTEAD OF ON THE ROCKS! HERE, WATCH ME!



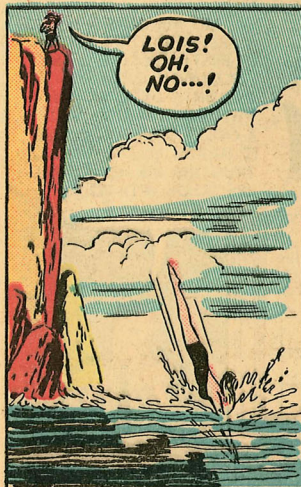
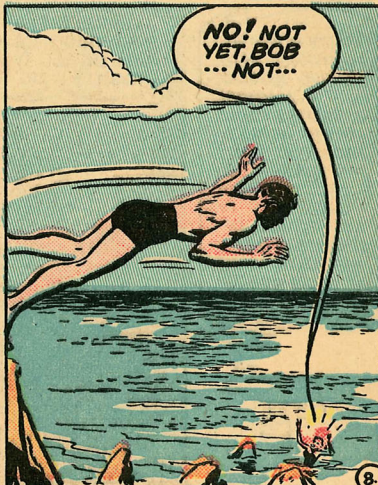
LOIS! OH, NO...!

SEE HOW EASY IT IS? NOW YOU TRY IT... UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO THINK YOU'RE A COWARD!

WELL, I... ALL RIGHT! IF A GIRL CAN DO IT, I GUESS I CAN!



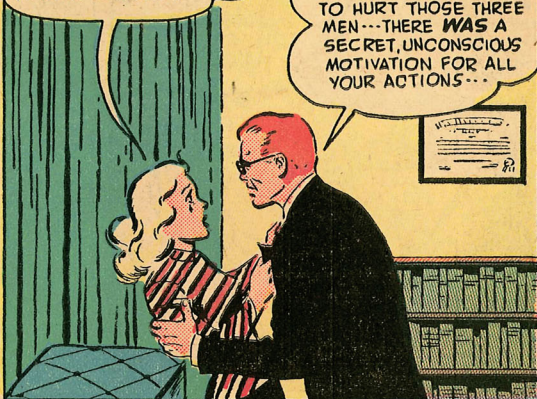
NO! NOT YET, BOB... NOT...





I KILLED HIM... I TELL YOU, I **KILLED HIM!** I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I WANTED TO HURT HIM TOO!

LISTEN TO ME... AND LISTEN **HARD**... YOUR VERY SANITY DEPENDS ON IT! YOU **DID** WANT TO HURT THOSE THREE MEN... THERE **WAS** A SECRET, UNCONSCIOUS MOTIVATION FOR ALL YOUR ACTIONS...



THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT **EACH** OF THOSE MEN THAT REMINDED YOU SOMEHOW OF YOUR **FATHER**... THEY WERE **SYMBOLS** OF YOUR FATHER! AND THEY BROUGHT OUT ALL YOUR OLD, FORGOTTEN HOSTILITY TOWARDS HIM! AND JUST AS YOU BOTH LOVED AND HATED YOUR

FATHER, YOU ALSO LOVED AND **HATED** THOSE MEN... AND UNCONSCIOUSLY WANTED TO **HURT THEM!**



AND NOW THAT YOU **KNOW** THE REASON, YOU CAN **CONQUER** THOSE FEELINGS OF HATRED! YOU CAN SEE THAT THEY'RE NOTHING BUT EMOTIONAL HANGOVERS FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD... EMOTIONS THAT HAVE NO PLACE IN YOUR ADULT LIFE!

THEN I'VE DENIED MYSELF NORMAL LOVE AND HAPPINESS BECAUSE OF MY INFANTILE HATREDS! BUT I **WON'T** DENY MYSELF ANY LONGER... I... I THINK I'M **CURED!**



A MOUNTAINOUS BURDEN OF ANGUISH SUDDENLY SEEMED TO BE LIFTED FROM MY HEART... A HEART THAT HAD NO MORE POISONED HATRED IN IT, BUT ONLY A THROBBING GRATITUDE FOR THE HEALING WISDOM OF THIS KIND MAN!"

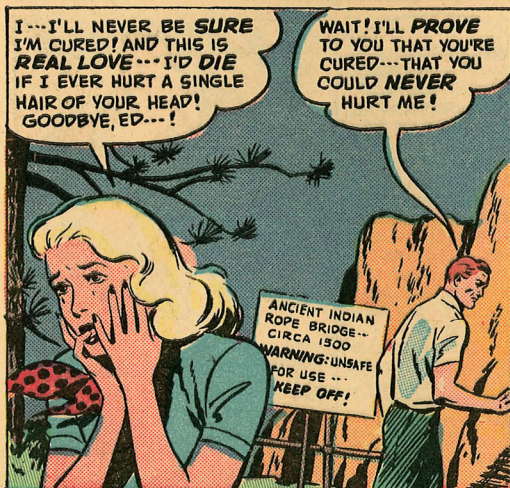
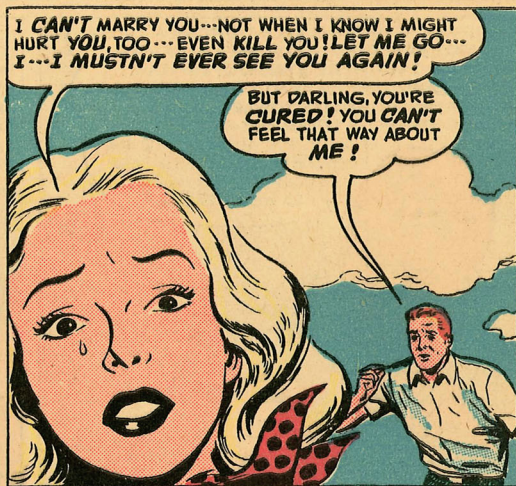
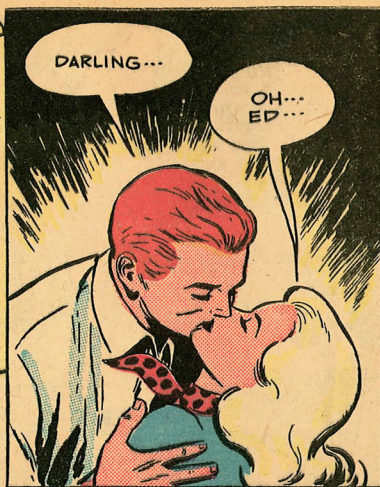
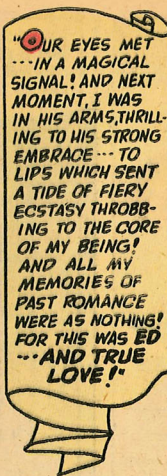
YOU **MAY** BE CURED, BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE, I'D LIKE TO KEEP ON SEEING YOU IN YOUR ORDINARY SOCIAL LIFE! I WANT TO KNOW YOU NOT AS A DOCTOR... BUT AS A **FRIEND!**

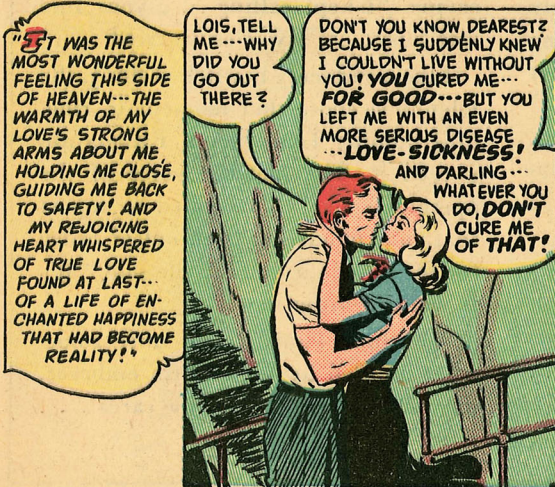
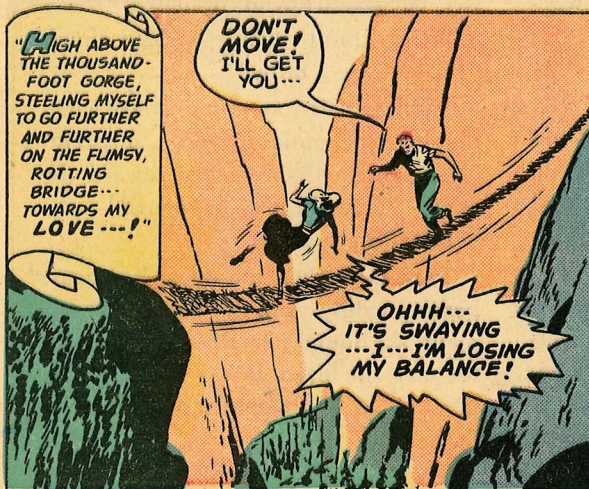
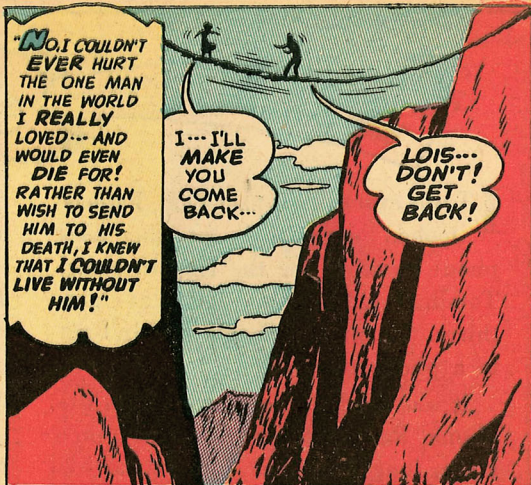
YOU MEAN, YOU WANT TO SEE HOW NORMAL I AM IN EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES? WELL, ALL RIGHT... I'D **LOVE** TO BE YOUR FRIEND, DOCT... I MEAN, **ED!**



"**DR. EDWARD J. COURTNEY** HAD BEEN WONDERFULLY KIND AND UNDERSTANDING, BUT JUST PLAIN **ED** COURTNEY WAS ALSO THRILLINGLY INTRIGUING... AS A **MAN!** MY HEART WOULD LEAP WITH TURBULENT HAPPINESS AT THE MERE SOUND OF HIS VOICE, AT HIS TENDERLY SMILING GLANCES... BUT EACH TIME, I WOULD SUDDENLY BE CHILLED BY THE RECOLLECTION THAT HE HAD ONLY A **PSYCHIATRIC** INTEREST IN ME!"







SILENT CUPID

IT was exactly half-past eight. Pamela looked expectantly at the telephone, waiting for the ring to come. Tom had said he would phone at eight-thirty. Oh, well, probably couldn't get to a phone booth.

It was hard to move away from the phone. Pamela longed to hear Tom's voice, longed to hear him repeat his declaration of love! It had been so wonderful, hearing him speak huskily, sincerely, of his adoration. He had promised to call . . . and he would, he *must*!

The hands of the clock moved on, inexorably. It . . . it was almost nine o'clock now! Surely, surely Tom had been able to get to a telephone by this time!

"I . . . returned his kisses!" Pamela thought, a sudden embarrassment overwhelming her. "I told him I loved him, too! Oh, perhaps I was too quick to give my heart away!"

And still the clock ticked on and the telephone stood there silently, so ugly in its stubborn quiet. It was getting late . . . half-past nine almost. What a believing little fool she had been! How he must be laughing about her, telling some friend about the girl who had fallen for him so hard and so fast!

"But he kissed me . . . he held me close!" Pamela shut her eyes to recall the romance of their magical moments together. "Oh, *why* doesn't he call . . . *why*?"

A sudden gust of hatred shook her.

She wanted to smash the phone, so that only senseless splinters remained! No, she wanted to shake it into life, into action, into bringing her Tom's voice!

And then the hatred turned to something else. Pamela felt dull despair as the clock moved on . . . ten . . . ten-thirty . . . eleven! To her horror, she realized that tears were coursing down her cheeks, tears of despair.

"It's stupid to wait," she said aloud. "I'd better get to bed!"

She was half-way up the stairs when the doorbell sounded, loudly, insistently! Frightened, she moved toward the door. "Something's happened," she kept telling herself.

Pamela opened the door, her heart beating wildly. And in one swift movement, she found herself in the arms of the man she loved. It was Tom, holding her tightly, as though he would never let her go.

"Why didn't you answer?" he kept saying. "I kept calling . . . your line was busy . . . I was so worried . . ."

Like a suddenly bewitched thing, the telephone chose that moment to ring. Still holding Tom's hand, Pamela answered it. The metallic voice of the operator spoke. "I've called to report that your phone has been out of order for the past four hours," she said. "It's in working order now!"

To which Pamela, her voice somewhat muffled by Tom's firm embrace, answered blissfully, "Who cares . . . now?"

What is a man to do when
hidebound tradition and family
say, "Follow the rules!"
while his heart thunders,
"Forget the rules, and--"

Fight For Your Darling!"



Agatha Cauldwell, with her family
tree, her background of culture and society--
or Mary Vaughn, with a name chosen
from the telephone directory... **WHICH**
was his **DARLING?**

SAM COOPER

"As far back as I can remember, my life had
always been carefully regulated! I was taught
to live a polite, orderly life... to observe the
customs of our own social tribe..."

EAT **ALL** YOUR CEREAL,
SPENCER. IT'S
GOOD FOR YOU!

HAS THE MORNING PAPER
COME YET, SARAH? I THINK
IT'S LATE AGAIN!



"There was very little change in the Hastings
household with the change of time! I grew to
manhood, well read, well-educated, but
knowing little beyond our neat circle, our
schedule of living..."

FINISH YOUR CEREAL,
SPENCER. IT WILL
DO YOU GOOD!

SARAH, I **DO** BELIEVE
THAT MORNING PAPER'S LATE
AGAIN! OH, WELL, WE'VE
OTHER THINGS TO THINK
OF TODAY--



"Dad was talking about my **WEDDING!** He and mother were pleased with the idea ... after all, we'd known Agatha Cauldwell in her romper days and she was thoroughly **ACCEPTABLE!**"

WHEN'S IT TO BE, MY BOY? HAVE YOU SET THE DATE?

AGATHA AND HER MOTHER SAY **SOON**, DAD ... IN A FEW WEEKS, I SHOULD THINK!



"There wasn't a ripple on the surface of our lives as I saw Agatha home that evening! Everything was as simple as A-B-C..."

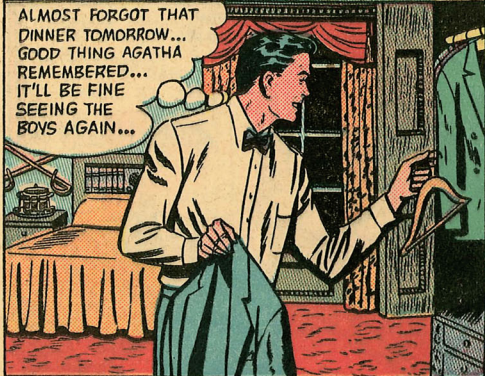
BOTH MOTHER AND I FEEL OUR WEDDING SHOULD BE KEPT DOWN TO THE FAMILIES AND A FEW FRIENDS! YOU **AGREE**, OF COURSE!

WHATEVER YOU THINK, AGATHA ... YOU'RE USUALLY RIGHT!



"**THAT** was my life... **THOSE** were my plans! Bored? **NOT AT ALL!** I'd grown up with it and come to accept it, completely! There was nothing lacking... **NOTHING!**"

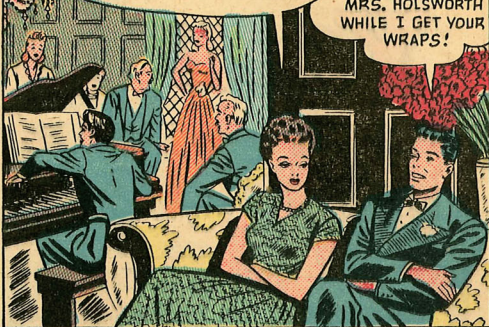
ALMOST FORGOT THAT DINNER TOMORROW... GOOD THING AGATHA REMEMBERED... IT'LL BE FINE SEEING THE BOYS AGAIN...



"Yes, it was all decided as a matter of course, just as our small round of visits and social affairs was a settled concern! I was escorting Agatha to a musicale that evening..."

I THINK IT'S TIME WE WERE LEAVING, SPENCER ... IT'S ALMOST TEN O'CLOCK!

RIGHT, DEAR... MAKE OUR EXCUSES TO MRS. HOLSWORTH WHILE I GET YOUR WRAPS!



"It had been a pleasant evening! At the door, Agatha offered me her cheek to kiss, which was perfectly all right, since our engagement had been announced..."

GOOD NIGHT, SPENCER! I WON'T BE SEEING YOU TOMORROW... YOUR ALUMNI DINNER, YOU KNOW!

THAT'S RIGHT, I CLEAN FORGOT! THE TRADITIONAL COLLEGE SENDOFF FOR BACHELORS ABOUT TO TAKE THE LEAP! GOOD NIGHT, AGATHA!



"These were all school friends who'd kept up with each other since college days! As the guest of honor, I was having a fine time...until..."

I SHAY ... LE'S MAKE SPENCE'S PARTY **REAL PARTY... RED LETTER PARTY!** LE'S GO T'THE **L'IL PLASHE!**

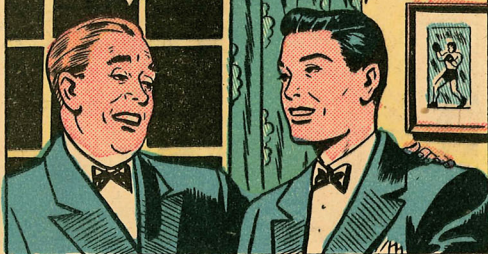
THE LITTLE PLACE! WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?



"I might have known, knowing Tubby, that any of his ideas would lead to trouble! But he was very insistent, and I didn't want to be a bad sport!"

BE REG'LAR GUY, SPENCIE!
YA'LL **LOVE** THISH JOINT...
AN' WAIT'LL YA SEE THE
SHONGBIRD... SHE'S
A **HONEY!**

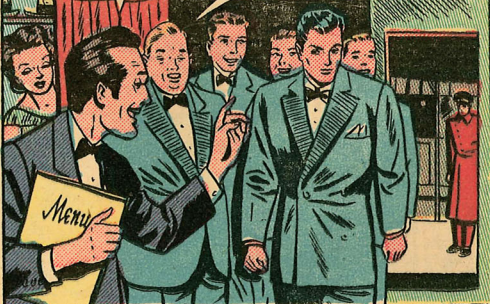
ALL RIGHT, TUBBY, IF
IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH
EVERYONE! **THE
LITTLE PLACE
IT IS!**



"**THE LITTLE PLACE!** In a rundown street, it had a cheap, tawdry quality that filled me with distaste! I'd never been near a place like **THIS** before!"

THIS WAY, SIR... THERE'S
A TABLE RIGHT OUT
IN FRONT!

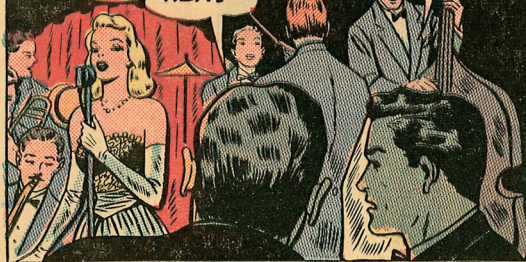
NO KIDDIN'... WAIT
UNTIL YOU **SHEE** HER...
SHE'S GOT
EVERYTHIN'!



"It was a noisy place, full of raucous people and music! A girl with too much makeup and a fixed smile sauntered over to the microphone ... and then, Tubby shouted in my ear..."

THAT'SH **HER... MARY
VAUGHN! GREAT LI'L
KID, AIN'T SHE? C'MON,
MAN... HOW D'YA LIKE
HER?**

HOW DO I
LIKE
HER?



"A feeling of revulsion came over me! This was so different from anything I had known! Although she seemed to be pleasing the crowd, this girl seemed loud and vulgar to **ME!**"

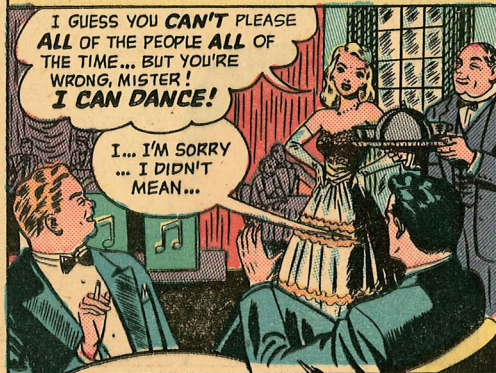
IF YOU **INSIST**, TUBBY! I THINK
SHE'S **CHEAP!** **SHE CAN'T
SING... CAN'T
DANCE... SHE'S
JUST A CRUDE,
SHABBY
EXHIBITIONIST!**



"Suddenly, I wanted to disappear... for the music had stopped and I was **SHOUTING, SHOUTING** so that everyone had heard me! **SHE** had heard me and she stared at me angrily, defiantly..."

I GUESS YOU **CAN'T** PLEASE
ALL OF THE PEOPLE **ALL** OF
THE TIME... BUT YOU'RE
WRONG, MISTER!
I CAN DANCE!

I... I'M SORRY
... I DIDN'T
MEAN...



"She moved so quickly that I couldn't avoid it... a tray of food shot out of the waiter's hand and spilled its contents over me! I had never been so angry!"

FOR INSTANCE, TAKE
THIS **HIGH KICK!**



YOU...
VIXEN!

"It was embarrassing to be humiliated in that place... by that girl! The manager tried to smooth things over, pretending it had been an accident, but we knew better... she and I!"

I'M SORRY, SIR,
TERRIBLY SORRY!
JUST SEND YOUR
CLEANING BILL TO
ME AND WE'LL --

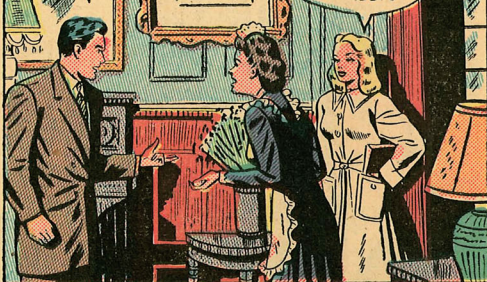
JUST LET ME GO!
I NEVER WANT TO
SEE THIS PLACE
AGAIN... OR HEAR
IT MENTIONED!



"The next day, I tried to forget it! It was one of those stupid things that should never have happened, that had no part in my life! But **SHE** wouldn't **LET** me forget it!"

I TOLD YOU
NO VISITORS,
MARTHA!

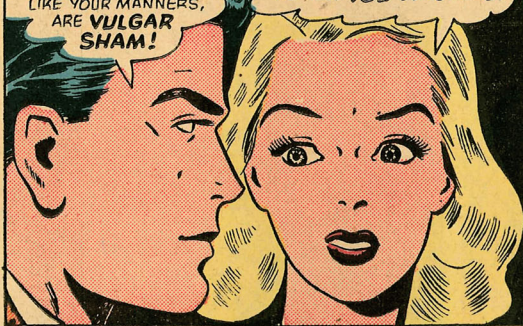
SHE **TRIED**
TO KEEP ME OUT,
MR. HASTINGS!
IT'S NOT
HER
FAULT!



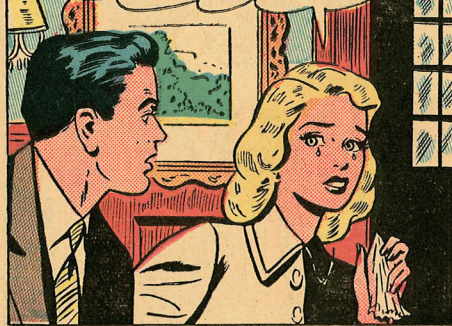
"She had come to **APOLOGIZE**, she said! She wanted to be **FORGIVEN** for losing her temper and making a scene! Would I shake and forget it?"

I'D **LIKE** TO FORGET IT,
MISS VAUGHN, SO PLEASE
LEAVE! YOUR APOLOGY,
LIKE YOUR MANNERS,
ARE **VULGAR**
SHAM!

WHY, YOU SMUG, SELF-SATISFIED
STUFFED SHIRT! LET
ME TELL **YOU** SOMETHING!



I ONLY CAME BECAUSE MY BOSS
SAID HE'D **FIRE** ME IF I DIDN'T!
I NEVER WANT TO SEE **YOU** AGAIN,
EITHER! YOU HAVE AS MUCH
FEELING AS A MACKEREL... **A**
STONE-COLD DEAD ONE!



"An instant later and she was gone... and Agatha came in, brisk as usual! Familiar, down-to-earth Agatha! With her usual quick manner, she managed to catch me off guard..."

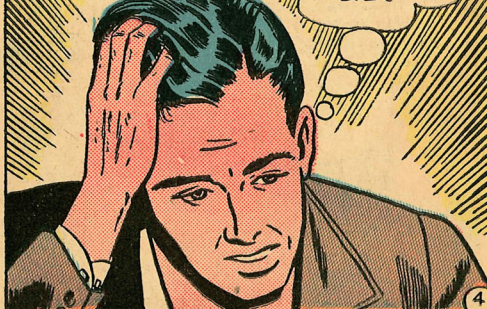
SPENCER, WHO WAS
THAT GIRL I SAW
RUNNING DOWN
THE WALK? SHE
SEEMED TO BE
CRYING!

OH... **THAT!** YES... SHE
APPLIED FOR A MAID'S JOB,
I THINK, BUT SHE DIDN'T SUIT!
NO... SHE DIDN'T... ER...
SUIT!

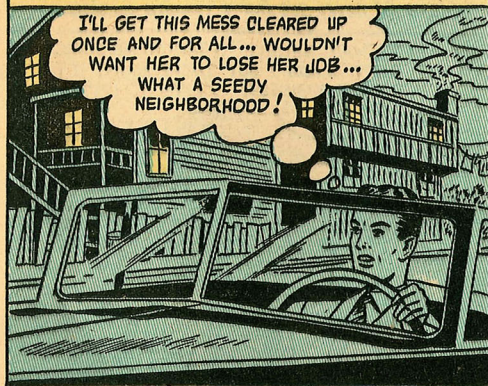


"Now, why did I say **THAT?** I didn't even **KNOW** the girl, much less care about her... and yet ... **AND YET...**"

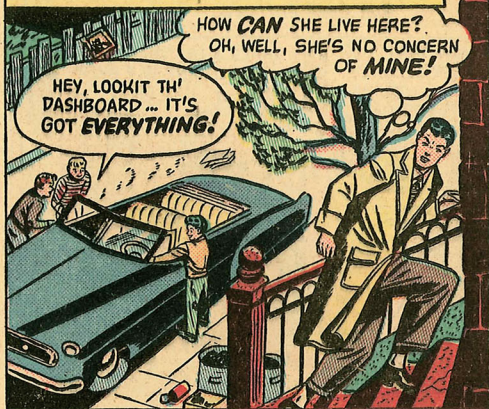
I **LIED** ABOUT
HER! **WHAT MADE**
ME TELL THAT
LIE?



"It must have been a feeling of guilt that made me lie, an inner knowledge that I had been unkind! That afternoon, I found her address in the phone book and..."



"As I ran up the front steps of the old brownstone, I felt I was entering an alien world!"



"Mary Vaughn was surprised to see me! She asked me in ... but no further than the hallway of her drab little apartment! And she listened with cold hostility as I spoke!"



YOU SEE, I WAS **FIRE**D, MR. HASTINGS! I HOPE **THAT** SATISFIES YOUR CONCEIT!

BELIEVE ME, MISS VAUGHN, I'LL DO **ANYTHING!..**



"I had a hard time convincing her of my sincerity! She said she wanted to be left alone ... but I refused to go until she agreed to join me in a visit to her employer!"



"It was over! The episode was finished ... I would never see her again! Well, that was the way I wanted it! I watched her walk away, and then ... she staggered ... clutched the wall for support!"



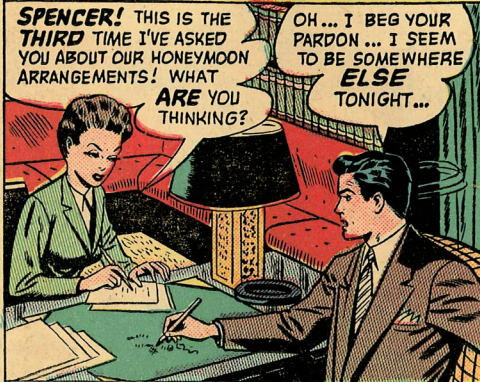
"She'd had no sleep or food since the day before... **no WONDER** she was faint! I wouldn't let her talk until she'd had some coffee..."

"For the first time, she smiled at me, warmly, personally... and I felt a sudden glow, as though I'd stumbled on a gold mine! I was having a wonderful time! It was hard to believe I'd never see Mary Vaughn again..."



"That night, with Agatha, I was strangely absent-minded! I didn't realize until she spoke sharply, her eyes narrowed suspiciously..."

"**SOMEWHERE ELSE!** I knew where my mind was wandering... it was no accident that brought me to that crowded street again! Funny! Mary wasn't at all surprised to see me!"



"I think I knew real conflict for the first time! Part of me knew that Mary Vaughn was all wrong... a nightclub singer in a cheap cafe! Still, I wanted to be with her, to hear her voice, to feel the warmth of her smile! I began to take her out..."

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS! ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE ME A FAST FINISHING SCHOOL ROUTINE? OUR **THIRD** MUSEUM IN THREE DAYS!

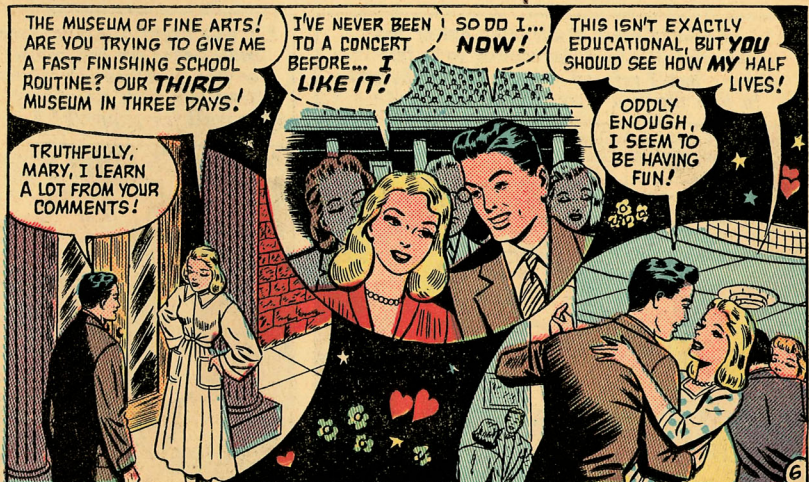
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A CONCERT BEFORE... **I LIKE IT!**

SO DO I... **NOW!**

THIS ISN'T EXACTLY EDUCATIONAL, BUT **YOU** SHOULD SEE HOW **MY** HALF LIVES!

TRUTHFULLY, MARY, I LEARN A LOT FROM YOUR COMMENTS!

ODDLY ENOUGH, I SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN!



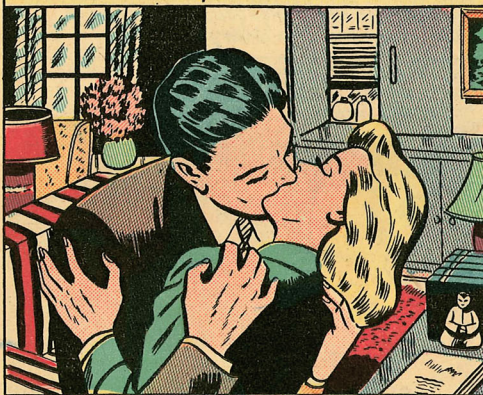
"It was not easy to lead a double life, full of regrets and longings...hopping from my world to Mary's and back again! I eased my conscience by telling myself that Mary and I were friends... **NOTHING MORE!**"

REALLY, SPENCER, YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE! IF SOMETHING IS TROUBLING YOU, WHY NOT DISCUSS IT WITH **ME?**

I KNOW I'VE BEEN VAGUE LATELY, AGATHA... BUT IT'S GOING TO STOP!



"For **EVERYTHING** was nonsense that kept her out of my arms! I **NEEDED** her... **WANTED** her... had to hold her close!"



"I knew one thing - **I LOVED MARY!** Even though she lived outside our charmed circle, I **LOVED** her! I **HAD** to tell Agatha... to stop our empty, meaningless wedding! But Agatha wilfully misunderstood..."

AGATHA, LISTEN TO ME...THIS IS IMPORTANT TO BOTH OF US!

NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THESE THANK-YOU NOTES FOR OUR GIFTS, SPENCER! IT CAN **WAIT**, I'M SURE!



"Yes, it had to stop! I was a Hastings, engaged to a Cauldwell! No room for **MARY VAUGHN!** I went to her, determined to call it quits! But when I looked at her, heard her voice... something happened!"

HI! I'VE JUST FINISHED READING THAT BOOK YOU SUGGESTED!

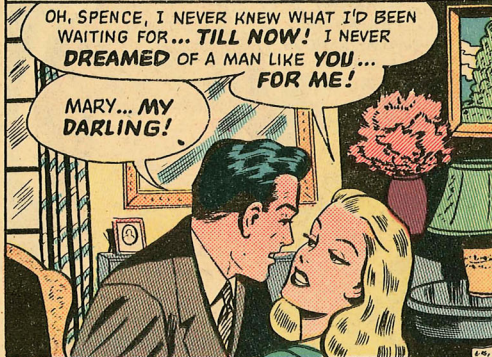
MARY... STOP TALKING NONSENSE!



"I'd never known anything but the cool, impersonal touch of Agatha's kiss! **THIS** was a revelation of heaven... my lips on Mary's! All of her love and innocence were revealed when she said huskily..."

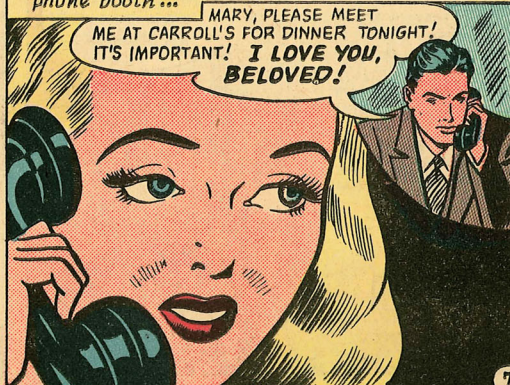
OH, SPENCE, I NEVER KNEW WHAT I'D BEEN WAITING FOR... **TILL NOW!** I NEVER **DREAMED** OF A MAN LIKE **YOU...** **FOR ME!**

MARY... MY **DARLING!**

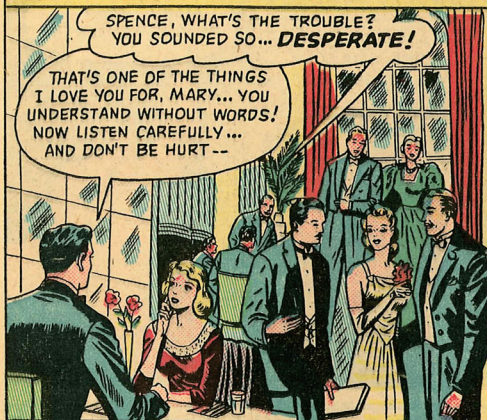


"Desperation clutched me! This deception to Agatha... to Mary... to **MYSELF**...it had to end! I dialled Mary's number from a nearby phone booth..."

MARY, PLEASE MEET ME AT CARROLL'S FOR DINNER TONIGHT! IT'S IMPORTANT! **I LOVE YOU, BELOVED!**



"Carroll's was a restaurant frequented by my family and friends! That's why I wanted to meet Mary there! I wasn't ashamed of her... no hiding in back streets for us! Her beautiful eyes greeted me as tenderly as a kiss..."



SPENCE, WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
YOU SOUNDED SO... **DESPERATE!**

THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS
I LOVE YOU FOR, MARY... YOU
UNDERSTAND WITHOUT WORDS!
NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY...
AND DON'T BE HURT--

"A shadow fell across our table! We looked up
and there they were... **AGATHA AND HER
MOTHER!** Mary, of course, knew nothing, so
that Agatha's cruel words came like a
bombshell! "



HELLO, SPENCER!
YOU DIDN'T
TELL ME YOU
WERE DINING
OUT TONIGHT,
DEAR!

YOU NEEDN'T BE
POLITE, AGATHA!
THIS... GIRL IS
OBVIOUSLY A
NOBODY!

I DON'T **INTEND** TO BE POLITE! I'VE
HEARD RUMORS ABOUT A CHEAP, VULGAR
NIGHTCLUB ENTERTAINER!

MARY VAUGHN, ISN'T
IT? THE... CREATURE
I SAW THAT AFTERNOON,
RUNNING FROM
SPENCER'S HOUSE!
MISS VAUGHN,
COULDN'T YOU
MANAGE TO FIND
SOMEONE **ELSE'S**
FIANCEE? SOMEONE
MORE... **YOUR
KIND?**



"I wanted to speak, but convention, my life-
long habits of breeding and restraint, stopped
me! I was still engaged to Agatha! I
wavered... and lost Mary! "



I... I'M GOING, SPENCE...
EVERYTHING'S **VERY
CLEAR** NOW!

MARY... PLEASE...
DON'T GO!

"Agatha's hand was on my arm, firmly,
possessively! She kissed a word of warning
into my ear..."

DON'T MAKE A SCENE, SPENCE --
EVERYONE'S WATCHING! YOU
NEEDN'T WORRY! I'M
PERFECTLY WILLING TO
OVERLOOK THIS LITTLE
ESCAPEDE OF YOURS!

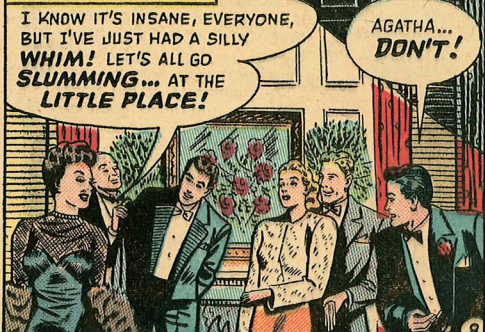
WE'RE LEAVING
NOW... COME WITH
US, SPENCER!



"How smoothly, how politely they 'forgave' me!
Agatha insisted on ignoring my appeals, on
continuing our hollow plans and obligations!
I knew how Mary must be spending the night...
and as for **ME**..."

I KNOW IT'S INSANE, EVERYONE,
BUT I'VE JUST HAD A SILLY
WHIM! LET'S ALL GO
**SLUMMING... AT THE
LITTLE PLACE!**

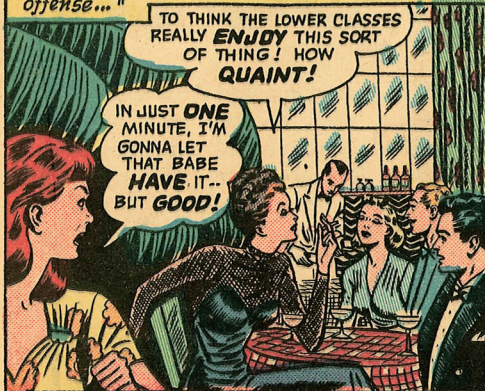
AGATHA...
DON'T!



"She won, of course! And I began to see that Agatha was not only cruel, but stupid! I winced as I heard her laughter, nasty and high-pitched! People at nearby tables were beginning to take offense..."

TO THINK THE LOWER CLASSES REALLY **ENJOY** THIS SORT OF THING! HOW **QUAINT!**

IN JUST **ONE** MINUTE, I'M GONNA LET THAT BABE **HAVE IT...** BUT **GOOD!**



"**THE LITTLE PLACE** was not a place where people masked their reactions or feelings! It happened very fast... a woman tugging at Agatha's hair... Agatha screaming, tugging back, clawing... a table overturned... a brawl!"

LADIES... GENTLEMEN... **PLEASE!** WON'T YOU ALL QUIET DOWN AS I PRESENT OUR **STAR ATTRACTION?** ... **MISS MARY VAUGHN!**



"**THAT** was it! **THAT** was what Agatha, staid, prim Agatha, had been waiting for! Yelling shrilly, she threw herself at Mary, kicking and scratching..."

REMEMBER **ME**, MISS VAUGHN? I'VE COME TO SEE YOU IN YOUR OWN **ELEMENT!**

WILL SOMEONE TAKE HER AWAY SO I CAN GO ON WITH MY **ACT?**



"The truth can hit **HARD...** as it hit me then! It was **MARY**, Mary who was the lady... with good manners and breeding that came from the heart! Agatha's veneer had chipped off, revealing a fish-wife, coarse and loud..."

YOU **SEE**, SPENCER? **SHE** STARTED THIS SCENE --

NO, SHE DIDN'T, AGATHA... **YOU** DID!



"I was a free man at last... free to tell my family and friends I had made **MY OWN CHOICE**, whether they approved or not! Free to take Mary in my arms where everyone could see... and press my lips to hers once more!"

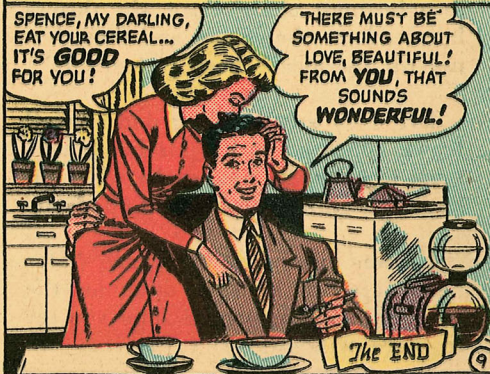
I LOVE YOU, **MARY...** FOREVER!



"They were shocked at first... but they got used to it! But breakfast for Spencer Hastings and his bride was a far cry from the formality and routine of days gone by..."

SPENCE, MY DARLING, EAT YOUR CEREAL... IT'S **GOOD** FOR YOU!

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ABOUT LOVE, BEAUTIFUL! FROM **YOU**, THAT SOUNDS **WONDERFUL!**



The END

EDITORIAL KISS

IT was a very good party. Eve Ronalds could see that, as her hostess helped her off with her coat, commented on her dress, complimented her on her hairdo and offered her a cocktail, all in one breath.

Poised and smiling, Eve moved through the room returning the gay greetings of her friends. Almost everyone there knew Eve, and why not? She was the successful editor of the most popular love story magazine in the country. Many articles had been printed about this beautiful young woman who brought tender stories about romance to love-thirsty readers from coast to coast.

Eve was about to sit down when her attention was attracted by a deep masculine voice loaded with scorn and sarcasm. "Eve Ronalds?" the voice was asking. "No, I've never met her, but the woman is obviously a *fraud!*"

Quietly, Eve joined a small group which stood at one end of the living room, listened with amused interest to a dynamically handsome red-headed man. "I've never met her," he was saying, "but I've seen a few issues of her magazine! Why, the woman's as cold as a business chart! Sure, she throws her readers a bone now and then, but not till the meat's been picked off!"

Eve drew a little closer and a small frown appeared on her forehead. This man, whoever he was, spoke well, but he *was* beginning to be a bit offensive.

He was expanding his theme. "Her heroes are clothing store dummies, the handsome, expressionless kind you see in store windows! Her heroines are

made of papier mache! And when they embrace, what do you get? A typographical hug, an ink-smudged kiss, all very correct grammatically, but minus the human element. This Eve Ronalds has never kissed or been kissed by a real man! That, ladies and gentlemen, is my opinion!"

Eve had never been so angry in her life! Her self-control vanished as she raised her voice above the laughter and comments of the group! She was seething, but her voice was cold and contemptuous. "I'm Eve Ronalds!" she announced. "It's always delightful to meet an *expert*, a know-it-all who is capable of minding everyone's business but his own! Remember, Mr. Whoever-you-are, that it's simple to give advice! Especially *bad* advice!"

The red-headed man spoke. "I'm John Malloy," he said. "I figure you'd better know my name before I *prove* to you what I've just said! You can get the vital statistics later!"

A profound silence fell on the group as John Malloy took two steps toward Eve Ronalds, pulled her firmly but gently into his arms, and brought his lips down on hers, warmly. It was quite a while before he released her. And it was quite a while before either of them could speak.

It was John Malloy who said, finally, "That . . . *that* was no editorial kiss!"

"I see . . . what you mean," Eve answered breathlessly. "I guess I had a lot of theories, but no . . . no *practice!*"

"*That*," said John Malloy, "is all going to be changed from now on!"

Sweetheart of a SLAVE!



DID YOUR HEART EVER BEAT TO THE LURE OF FAR-AWAY PLACES... RACE FIERCELY TO TALES OF LONG-VANISHED ROMANCE? THEN THIS STORY'S FOR YOU! IT'S A STORY OF GALLANT LOVE AND DEADLY DANGER... OF KISSES AND KILLING... ALL THE WAY FROM 18TH CENTURY ENGLAND TO THE SAVAGE ISLE OF BARBADOS! YES, HERE'S THE STRANGEST ROMANCE OF ALL TIME... THE TALE OF A NOBLE BELLE OF THE KING'S COURT WHO WAS... THE SWEETHEART OF A SLAVE!

ON THE LOVELY, IDYLIC ISLAND OF BARBADOS, NESTLED AMONG THE WAVES OF THE CARIBBEAN, THERE STANDS AN ANCIENT LOCUST TREE... A FAVORITE TRYSTING SPOT FOR LOVERS! AND CARVED HIGH ON ITS TRUNK IS AN AGED AND WEATHERED HEART, CONTAINING TWO SETS OF INITIALS... "M.A." AND "E.W." WHO WERE THESE ANCIENT AND LONG-DEAD SWEET-HEARTS? WHAT WAS THEIR STORY?

LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING-- AND GO BACK TO A LONDON DRAWING ROOM IN THE YEAR 1729! MEET "E.W."... ELIZABETH WARWICK, DAUGHTER OF THE THIRD EARL OF WARWICK... AND ONE OF ENGLAND'S MOST NOTORIOUS FLIRTS!

ELIZABETH, DARLING... I LOVE YOU!



AND THIS HANDSOME YOUNG BLADE... IS HE THE LEGENDARY "M.A." WHO CAPTURED ELIZABETH'S HEART BY STORM? WELL, **HARDLY**... AS YOU'LL SOON SEE!

ELIZABETH, YOU CAN'T PUT ME OFF ANY LONGER! I CAN'T LIVE WITH-OUT YOU... YOU **MUST** MARRY ME!

DON'T BE **SILLY**, GILES! A FEW **KISSES** DON'T MEAN I'M IN **LOVE** WITH YOU!



"THIS WAS GILES... LORD DORSET... AND HE WAS MERELY ONE OF A LONG SERIES OF CONQUESTS I HAD MADE AMONG THE YOUNG NOBLES OF ENGLAND'S ARISTOCRACY! AND NOW THAT I COULD NUMBER HIM AMONG MY CONQUESTS, MY INTEREST **WANE!**"

DON'T TRIFLE WITH **ME** AS YOU HAVE WITH ALL THE **OTHERS** I'VE HEARD ABOUT! YOU'RE DRIVING ME TO **DESPERATION**... I WARN YOU, I'LL GO TO **ANY** LENGTHS TO **KEEP** YOU!

REALLY, GILES... YOU'RE GETTING **TOO** TIRE-SOME!



THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT HIS ANNOYING ATTENTIONS CEASED... **PERMANENTLY!** NEXT DAY...

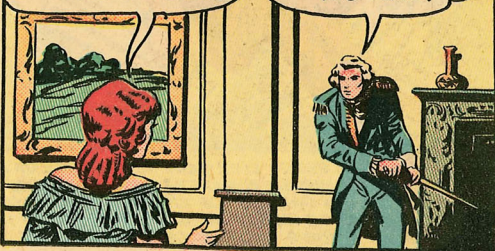
DARLING, WHY ARE YOU SO ALOOF TODAY? YOU **KNOW** I LOVE YOU!

AH, BUT **DO** I KNOW, STUART? I KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU, BUT IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD BE **SURE** OF YOUR LOVE... **WAIT!** MAYBE THERE IS A WAY!



YOU'RE THE BEST DUELIST IN THE KING'S GUARDS! WILL YOU AVENGE THE INSULT THAT GILES... LORD DORSET... FLUNG IN MY FACE YESTERDAY?

YOU MEAN HE HAD THE AUDACITY... YOU **WILL** BE AVENGED! I'LL CHALLENGE HIM TO A DUEL TO THE DEATH **HIS** DEATH!



AT DAWN...

GILES WAS AFRAID TO CHOOSE SWORDS... BUT **PISTOLS** ARE EVEN BETTER! I MAY FIND MYSELF RID OF **TWO** ANNOYING SUITORS!

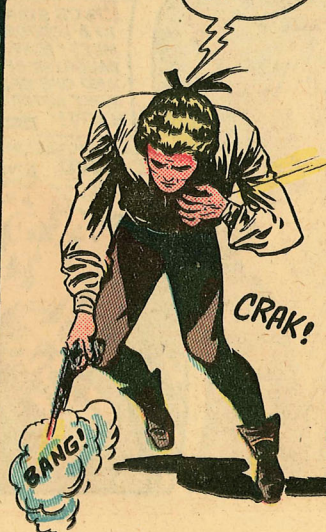
TAKE TEN PACES, TURN... AND **FIRE!**



OH-HHH!

HE WON'T BOTHER **YOU** AGAIN, DARLING! AND NOW THAT I'VE PROVEN MY LOVE FOR **YOU**...

GO AWAY, YOU... **YOU** **CALLOUS** BRUTE! HOW CAN YOU SPEAK OF LOVE WHEN YOU ALMOST **KILLED** A MAN JUST NOW? I **HATE** YOU!



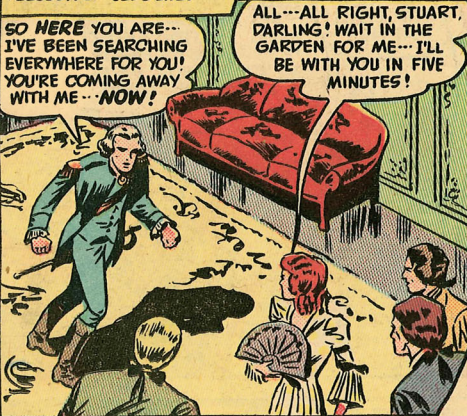
"I HAD TO STIFLE MY LAUGHTER AT THE SHOCKED, INCREDULOUS LOOK ON CAPTAIN STUART MALLORY'S FACE AS I STALKED AWAY! BUT I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIM THAT EVENING... IN THE EXCITEMENT OF BEING THE BELLE OF THE ROYAL BALL!"



JUST LOOK AT THAT ELIZABETH WARWICK! MONOPOLIZING ALL THE MOST ATTRACTIVE MEN-- AS USUAL!

YOU MIGHT AS WELL RESIGN YOURSELF TO IT--NONE OF US CAN COMPETE WITH HER BEAUTY!

"THERE WAS SOMETHING ARRESTING, INTRIGUING, ABOUT HIM... SOMETHING THAT TOLD ME HERE WAS A REAL MAN, A HEART WORTH CONQUERING! BUT THERE WAS NO TIME TO PONDER ABOUT MY STRANGELY POUNDING PULSES, FOR SUDDENLY--"



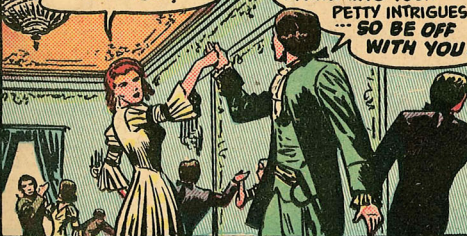
SO HERE YOU ARE-- I'VE BEEN SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! YOU'RE COMING AWAY WITH ME-- NOW!

ALL... ALL RIGHT, STUART, DARLING! WAIT IN THE GARDEN FOR ME-- I'LL BE WITH YOU IN FIVE MINUTES!

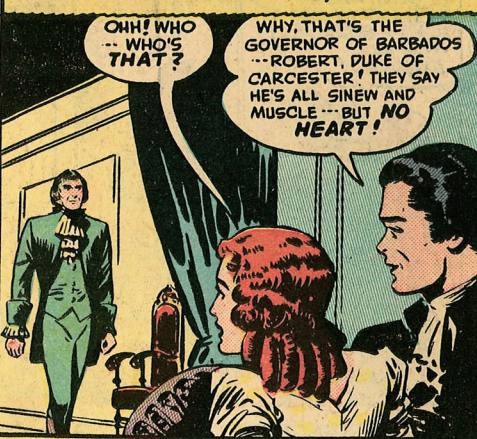
"HIS COLDNESS DISHEARTENED ME, BUT THE ELECTRIFYING TOUCH OF HIS FINGERS DURING THE STATELY MINUET SENT THE BLOOD RUSHING TO MY HEAD AND MADE ME SPEAK OUT BOLDLY!"

IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH-- THERE'S A DANGEROUSLY MAD YOUNG MAN HERE WHO HAS SWORN TO ABDUCT ME! I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU-- YOU WILL PROTECT ME, WON'T YOU?

YOU MUST BE ELIZABETH WARWICK-- THE GIRL WHO'S SET HALF THE COURT TO FIGHTING OVER HER! WELL, I WON'T BE DRAWN INTO YOUR PETTY INTRIGUES-- SO BE OFF WITH YOU!



"I WAS ACCUSTOMED TO BEING THE CENTER OF ALL EYES, BUT I STILL COULDN'T DOWN THAT OLD FEELING OF GLOWING EXULTATION AT MY ABILITY TO CONQUER MEN'S HEARTS AND BEND THEM TO MY SLIGHTEST WHIM! BUT SUDDENLY--"



OH! WHO... WHO'S THAT?

WHY, THAT'S THE GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS-- ROBERT, DUKE OF CARCESTER! THEY SAY HE'S ALL SINEW AND MUSCLE-- BUT NO HEART!

PLEASE, SIR! YOU MUST DANCE WITH ME-- IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

FAR BE IT FROM ME TO DOUBT A LADY'S WORD! YOU CAN EXPLAIN YOURSELF WHILE WE'RE DANCING-- BUT I WARN YOU, IT HAD BETTER BE A GOOD EXPLANATION!



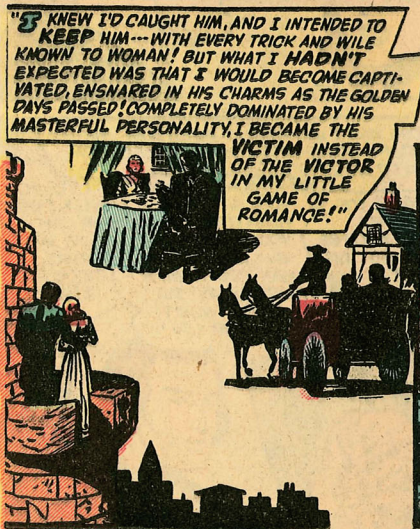
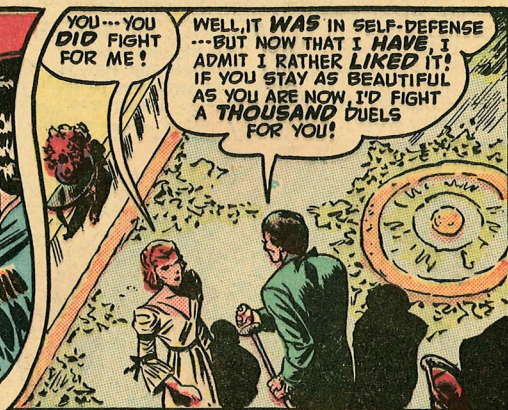
"FURIOUS THAT I HAD FINALLY MET A MAN WHOM I COULDN'T CONQUER, I LOST COMPLETE CONTROL OVER MYSELF!"

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT THE LOWEST--

HMM, NOW I CAN SEE WHY THEY FIGHT OVER YOU! YOU'RE CRUDE-- BUT REMARKABLY PRETTY WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY! BUT I STILL WON'T FIGHT FOR YOU!

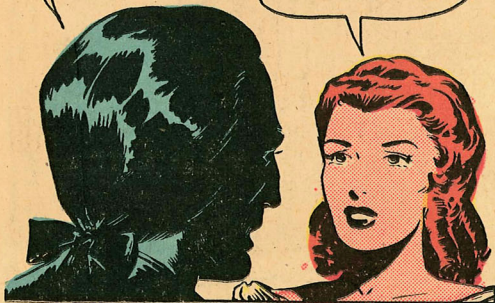
OH, YES, YOU WILL! NO MAN CAN INSULT MY FUTURE BRIDE AND LIVE!



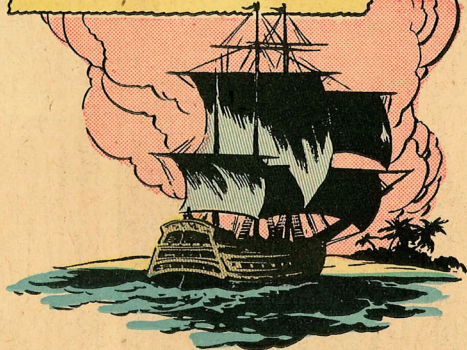


"I WANT TO MARRY YOU, ELIZABETH... MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WHOLE WORLD! BUT I CAN'T ASK YOU TO SHARE MY LIFE IN BARBADOS... THE ISLAND IS CRUDE, PRIMITIVE, EVEN DANGEROUS!"

"I CAN'T LET YOU SAIL OUT OF MY LIFE NOW, DARLING... NOT WHEN I'VE JUST FOUND MY ONE TRUE LOVE! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... I'M GOING WITH YOU! WE'LL BE MARRIED IN BARBADOS... **NOTHING** CAN STOP US FROM BEING HAPPY TOGETHER!"

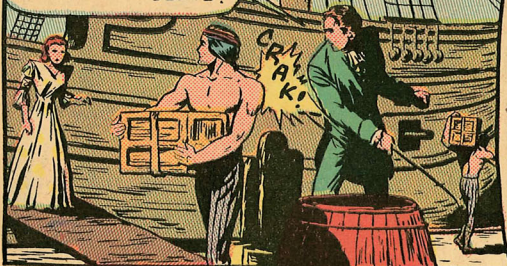


"AND SO IT WAS THAT A BRITISH MAN-OF-WAR, WITH A DUKE AND A DUCHESS-TO-BE ABOARD, SET SAIL TO THAT EXOTIC, PALM-FRINGED ISLAND OF MYSTERY, ENCHANTMENT, ROMANCE... **BARBADOS!**"



"I DISEMBARKED, BEWITCHED BY THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THIS ROMANTIC ISLE! SUDDENLY I SENSED A GAZE RIVETED ON MY BACK, AND FELT MYSELF COMPELLED TO TURN SLOWLY, AS THOUGH HYPNOTIZED BY A BURNING PAIR OF EYES!"

"YOU... **MALCOLM!** WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY STANDING THERE GAWKING? BACK TO YOUR LABORS... **SLAVE!**"



"LOOZY EYES WIDENED IN ADMIRATION AS I SAW THE BRONZED GIANT TAKE THE BLOW WITHOUT EVEN FLINCHING! THEN, WITH A LAST PIERCING GLANCE THAT SEEMED TO BORE INTO MY VERY SOUL, HE TURNED AND STALKED AWAY!"

"WHO... WHO IS THAT MAN? AND WHY DID YOU CALL HIM A **SLAVE**?"

"BECAUSE HE IS ONE, MY DEAR... A **BOND-SLAVE!** WE HAVE A NUMBER OF THEM ON THE ISLANDS... DANGEROUS FELONS, CONVICTED IN ENGLAND AND SENT HERE TO LABOR IN THE CANE-FIELDS! BUT YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID... I'M THEIR LORD AND MASTER HERE, AND I RULE THEM WITH AN **IRON HAND!**"



"BUT IT WASN'T FEAR THAT SHONE FROM MY EYES... BUT A STRANGE, MAGNETIC INTEREST IN THIS SLAVE WHOSE BURNING GAZE HAD STIRRED ME SO POWERFULLY! AGAINST MY WILL, I FOUND MYSELF DRAWN INEXORABLY TO THE CANE FIELDS NEXT DAY, AND THERE..."



"YOU!"

"SURPRISED? I'M NOT... I WAS EXPECTING YOU! I **KNEW** YOU'D COME HERE TO LOOK FOR ME!"

"YOU... YOU WOULDN'T **DARE** LAY A HAND ON ME! YOU'RE A **SLAVE**..."

"MAYBE... BUT A **MAN**, AS WELL!"



"SUDDENLY, HE LEAPED FORWARD! POWERFUL ARMS SEIZED ME IN A FIERCE EMBRACE... I FELT HIS LIPS ON MINE..."

LET
...ME...
GO!

"SUFFUSED WITH SHAME AND RAGE, I BROKE FROM HIS GRASP! I KNEW ONLY ONE THING... I HAD TO HUMBLE THIS SLAVE WHO HAD SO INSULTED ME!"

YOU... YOU BARBARIAN
... YOU INSOLENT
SLAVE... **DOWN
ON YOUR KNEES
AND BEG MY
PARDON!**

FOR **WHAT**, MY LADY... THE MOST
ENJOYABLE KISS OF YOUR LIFE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T
LIKE IT!

LIKE IT? ... I HATED IT, YOU... YOU
MONSTER! AND YOU'LL LEARN YOUR
LESSON... **BECAUSE I'M GOING
TO INFORM THE DUKE OF
YOUR IMPUDENCE!**

"BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THE FURY MY WORDS WOULD
CAUSE ROBERT... NOR THE CRUEL, MERCILESS PUNISH-
MENT HE WOULD INFLICT!"

I... I WANTED REVENGE... HE
DESERVES THIS! YET WHY IS
IT THAT EVERY STROKE...
SEEMS TO BE CUTTING INTO
MY HEART?

TWENTY-NINE...
THIRTY
LASHES, YOUR
EXCELLENCY!

CRASH!

CUT HIM DOWN AND THROW HIM IN THE
DUNGEON! THE SWINE-NOT ONCE DID HE
BEG FOR MERCY! BUT I'LL SEE HIM PLEAD
FOR HIS LIFE YET... WHEN WE **HANG** HIM
AT DAWN TOMORROW!

NO!
ROBERT, YOU
... YOU
CAN'T!

BUT I CAN... AND I **WILL**, MY
DEAR! IF WE DON'T MAKE AN
EXAMPLE OUT OF HIM, THESE
SLAVES WILL GET OUT OF
HAND!

THERE'S NO USE
ARGUING WITH
HIM... HE'S
HARD, COLD!
**THERE'S NO
MERCY IN
HIM!**

"ALMOST AS IF HE SENSED MY THOUGHTS, ROBERT SEIZED ME---AND HIS KISS WAS HARD, MASTERFUL UPON MY LIPS! BUT THE THRILLING EKULTATION---WHERE WAS IT?"

YOU'RE MINE...
I'LL KILL ANYONE
WHO DARES
TOUCH
YOU!



"SLEEP THAT NIGHT WAS TROUBLED! FITFUL, FLITTING VISIONS---AND THEN---THE FEEL OF LIPS UPON MINE ONCE MORE! AND THIS TIME---THE ECSTASY I SOUGHT!"

OH, ROBERT...
ROBERT!
THAT'S... THE
KIND OF LOVE
I WANT!



"MY DREAM LOVER RELEASED ME, STEPPED BACK---AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW HIS FACE!"

YOU!



"I AWOKE---SHOCKED---SHAKEN BY AN AWFUL REALIZATION! A DUKEDOM, AN ENTIRE WORLD AT MY FEET---YET I HUNGRED FOR THE STRONG ARMS OF A LOWLY SLAVE! AND MALCOLM, THE MAN OF MY DREAMS, NOW FACED DEATH---BECAUSE OF ME!"

I CAN'T DOWN MY CONSCIENCE ANY LONGER! HE CAN'T DIE---JUST BECAUSE OF A HARMLESS KISS! I'D BE TO BLAME---I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO--- I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM ESCAPE!



"STEALTHILY, I MADE MY WAY TO THE DUNGEON ---ONLY TO FIND---

THE GUARDS ARE OUT OF THE WAY! HURRY---WE MUST RELEASE MALCOLM ---AND THEN WE REVOLT!

OHH! I...
I OUGHT TO
SCREAM---
SUMMON
HELP---



"WHY COULDN'T I SCREAM? WHAT KEPT ME FROM CRYING OUT? I COULD ONLY WATCH TENSELY AS---

QUICKLY, MALCOLM
---THERE ARE HORSES
WAITING---

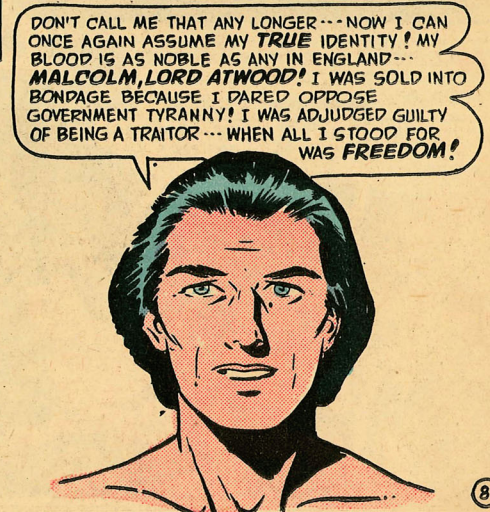
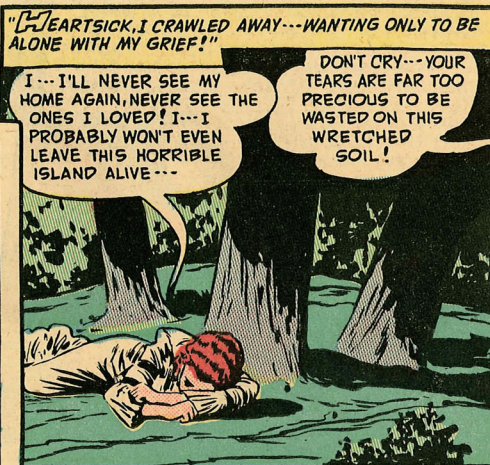
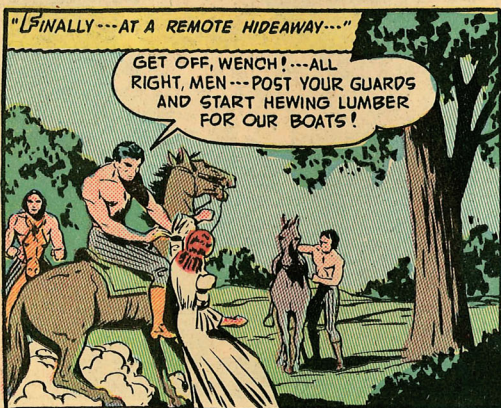
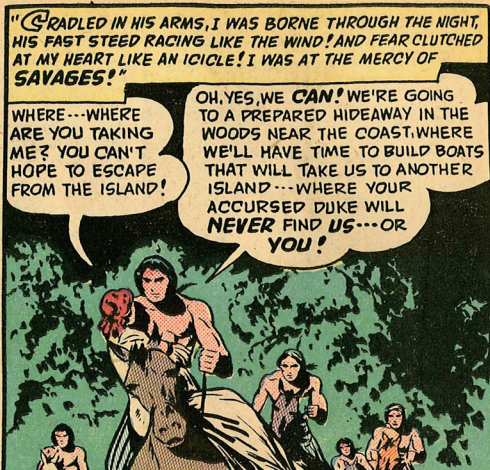
LOOK! A
SPY---WATCH-
ING US!

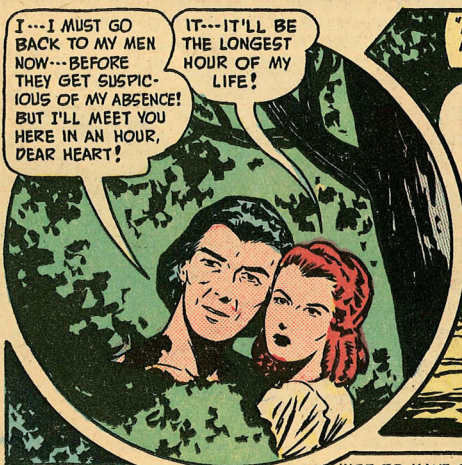


ABOUT TO CALL FOR HELP, EH? WELL, IT'S TOO LATE NOW! WE'RE TAKING YOU WITH US---INTO THE HILLS!

NO---IT'S
TOO RISKY!
KILL
HER---
NOW!







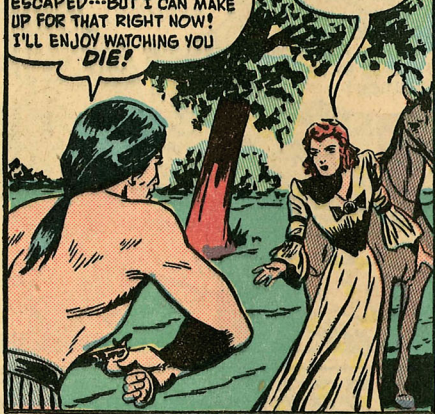
"GRUEL, HARSH WORDS THAT SENT MY DREAM CASTLES TOPPLING AROUND ME---I COULDN'T BELIEVE THEM! HE WAS MY MAN, MY OWN TRUE ROMANCE---HE COULDN'T MEAN WHAT HE'D SAID!"

DARLING---TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING!
TAKE ME IN YOUR ARMS, KISS ME---
SHOW ME THAT YOU STILL LOVE
ME---THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS
CARE FOR ME!



I WAS A FOOL FOR TAKING YOU
WITH US---I SHOULD HAVE
KILLED YOU WHEN WE FIRST
ESCAPED---BUT I CAN MAKE
UP FOR THAT RIGHT NOW!
I'LL ENJOY WATCHING YOU
DIE!

NO---NO!
YOU
CAN'T---



THIS WILL SHOW YOU HOW
MUCH I CARE FOR YOU! I
WAS JUST TOYING WITH
YOU, SO THAT I COULD
HURT YOU THIS WAY---
AS A TOKEN OF REVENGE
AGAINST THE
MEMBERS OF
YOUR DIRTY
CLASS WHO
SOLD ME
INTO
BONDAGE!

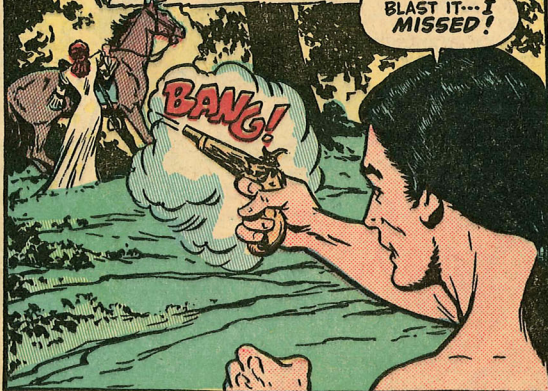
OH!!!

SLAP!



"TERROR-STRICKEN, PANIC GRIPPING MY HEART,
I LUNGED FOR THE ONLY AVENUE OF ESCAPE---
MALCOLM'S HORSE!"

BLAST IT---I
MISSED!



"IN A FLASH, I HAD MOUNTED---AND
WHIPPED THE HORSE STRAIGHT TOWARD
HIM!"

YOU WON'T GET
AWAY---I WON'T
MISS AGAIN!



YOU---YOU CONTEMPT-
IBLE SLAVE! THIS IS
ONLY A TASTE OF
WHAT YOU'LL GET---
BEFORE I SEE
YOU HUNG!

THIS WILL
FINISH
Y---OWWWW!



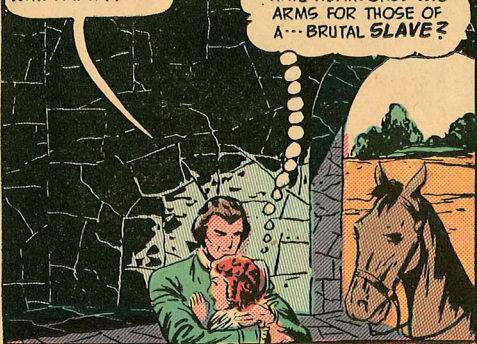
I---I'VE ESCAPED HIM---BUT I'LL
NEVER ESCAPE THE TORMENT IN
MY HEART! HE WAS THE ONLY MAN I
EVER TRULY LOVED---AND HE HATED
ME ENOUGH TO TRY TO MURDER
ME! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM FOR
THAT---I WON'T REST UNTIL I GET
MY FINAL REVENGE---BY SEEING
HIM ON THE GALLOWS!



"THERE WAS ONLY ONE HAYEN FOR ME... ONE MAN ON WHOSE DEVOTION I COULD DEPEND... ROBERT! HE'D NEVER DECEIVE ME... AND HE'D BRING ME THE REVENGE FOR WHICH I HUNGRED!"

OH, MY DARLING... YOU'RE BACK! I WAS FRANTIC WITH ANXIETY...

THIS IS THE MAN I REALLY BELONG TO! HOW COULD I EVER HAVE ABANDONED HIS ARMS FOR THOSE OF A... BRUTAL SLAVE?



"WHY DID I HESITATE? WHAT KEPT ME FROM UTTERING THE FATEFUL WORDS? DIDN'T I HATE MALCOLM... ENOUGH TO SEND HIM TO HIS DEATH? ROBERT WAS WAITING... I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING... AND SO..."

WELL, WHY DO YOU HESITATE? WHERE IS HIS HIDING PLACE... ELIZABETH... WHAT'S WRONG?

OH... I... I FEEL FAINT...



SHE FAINTED! THE POOR GIRL... WHAT A HARROWING EXPERIENCE SHE MUST HAVE HAD! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THAT SLAVE...



YOUR EXCELLENCY... LOOK! THAT MUD ON HER SHOES... IT'S RED CLAY! THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE THAT CAN COME FROM... THE WOODS ON THE EAST COAST OF THE ISLAND! THAT MUST BE WHERE THE SLAVES ARE HIDING!

MAID... TAKE CARE OF HER!... CAPTAIN, ORDER YOUR MEN TO SADDLE UP WITH FULL ARMS! TO THE WOODS... AND KILL EVERY SLAVE YOU FIND THERE!



"UNWILLINGLY, WITHOUT EVEN SPEAKING A WORD, I HAD STILL BETRAYED MALCOLM! I WOULD STILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH, UNLESS... UNLESS..."

MISTRESS, YOU'RE ILL... YOU MUSTN'T GET UP!

I... I'VE GOT TO! ORDER A FRESH HORSE GADDLED FOR ME... THE FASTEST IN THE STABLES!



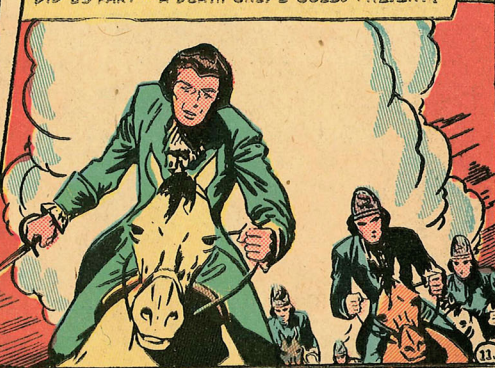
"I TOLD ROBERT OF HOW I'D BEEN KIDNAPPED... ALMOST MURDERED... AND HIS FURY KNEW NO BOUNDS!"

I'LL KILL HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS! JUST TELL ME WHERE HIS HIDING PLACE IS...

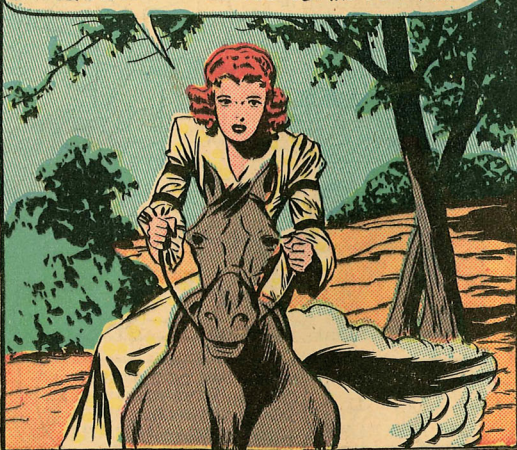
IT'S IN THE... THE...



"THE MESSAGE OF MY HEART WAS CLEAR TO ME NOW! BUT WOULD I BE IN TIME... COULD I OVERTAKE ROBERT AND HIS MEN AND SOMEHOW MANAGE TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MAN I NOW KNEW I WOULD LOVE UNTIL DEATH DID US PART... A DEATH ONLY I COULD PREVENT!"



I'VE **GOT** TO BE IN TIME! EVEN THOUGH HE DESPISES ME, TRIED TO HARM ME, I'LL **ALWAYS** LOVE MALCOLM ---AND **ONLY** MALCOLM! AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE HIM---BY TAKING THE SHORTCUT TO THE WOODS THAT THE SLAVES USED WHEN THEY KIDNAPPED ME! OH, PLEASE, LORD ---**PLEASE** LET ME BE IN TIME!



THE DUKE AND HIS MEN ARE HEADING HERE TO KILL YOU! I CAME TO WARN YOU---TO SAVE ALL OF YOU!

SHE'S RISKED HER LIFE TO WARN US, AND THAT PROVES SHE'S **NOT** OUR ENEMY---AND THAT I DIDN'T BETRAY OUR CAUSE BY LETTING HER ESCAPE! ONLY I CAN LEAD YOU TO VICTORY AGAINST THE DUKE'S MEN---**RELEASE ME!**



"GENEALY, I WATCHED THE MASTERFUL GENERALSHIP OF THE MAN I LOVED AS HE ORGANIZED HIS MEN FOR THE BATTLE! AND THEN, WHEN ROBERT AND HIS MEN RODE INTO THE WOODS, THE TRAP WAS SPRUNG!"

DEATH TO THE FORCES OF TYRANNY!

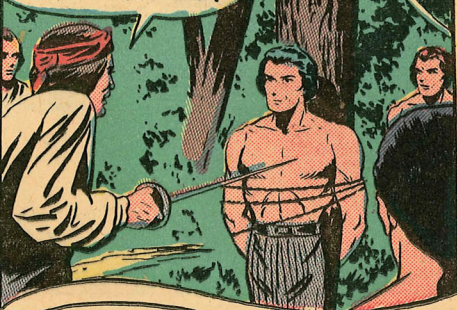
IT'S AN AMBUSH!



"**YES, I REACHED THE HIDEAWAY BEFORE ROBERT AND HIS MEN---ONLY TO SEE---**"

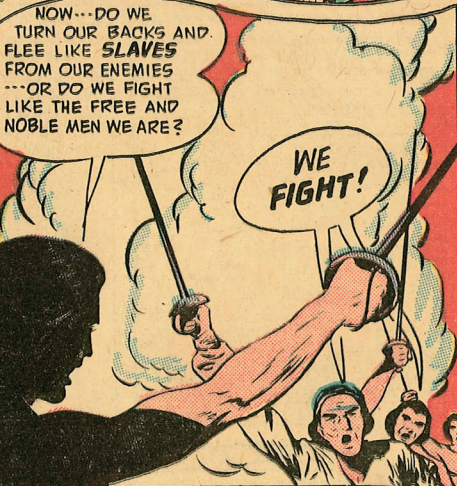
WE'VE TRIED YOU AND FOUND YOU GUILTY OF **TREASON** TO OUR CAUSE! YOU WERE THE BEST SHOT IN ALL ENGLAND---YOU COULD ONLY HAVE MISSED THAT GIRL **PURPOSELY**! AND NOW, TRAITOR---**YOU DIE!**

NO... WAIT!



NOW---DO WE TURN OUR BACKS AND FLEE LIKE **SLAVES** FROM OUR ENEMIES---OR DO WE FIGHT LIKE THE FREE AND NOBLE MEN WE ARE?

WE FIGHT!

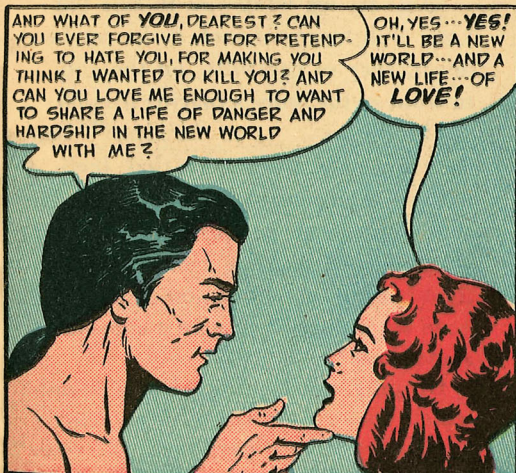
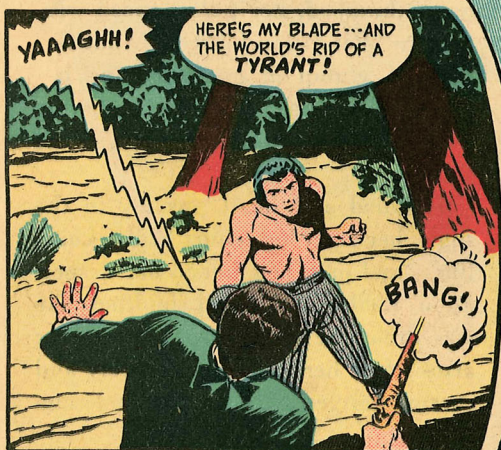


"THE BATTLE RAGED FIERCELY, BUT THE OUTNUMBERED SLAVES HAD THE ADVANTAGES OF SURPRISE, SUPERIOR COURAGE, AND AN INSPIRING LEADER WHOSE BRAVERY AND SKILL TURNED THE TIDE!"

AH, NOW WE MEET ON EQUAL GROUND---**TYRANT!** NOW YOU'LL BE REPAID FOR YOUR PERSECUTION OF MEN WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS THEIR LOVE OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE!

COME AND GET YOUR **JUSTICE**... AT THE POINT OF MY SWORD---**SLAVE!**





DECLARATION of DEPENDENCE

THE ski instructor looked briefly, but appraisingly, at Lee's slim, erect figure, clad in well-cut downhill pants and a trim jacket. Everything about this girl was perfect, from her skiing equipment to her natural equipment. In fact, she was breathtakingly lovely!

"I start my class in ten minutes," he offered, his smile amazingly white in his sun-tanned face. "You look like an apt pupil."

Lee's spine grew straighter still as she drew herself up to her full height. "Thank you very much," she said coldly, "but I prefer to learn by myself. I always do better by myself."

A faintly puzzled look entered Bob Swanson's eyes. She seemed almost offended at his suggestion that she enter his class. She seemed to resent his offer of help and instruction.

As a matter of fact, she did. Lee's unspoken motto, in her job, on vacation, in life, had always been, "I can take care of myself!" She had always done very well, thank you, without any pushing, prodding or direction. She needed no one to help her!

As her unaccustomed fingers fastened the leather bindings of her skis, Lee felt a stab of resentment against the young man who had offered to help her. How stupid the other girls were, clustering about him, acting helpless and frightened, chirping admiringly as his tall, compact body flashed through the snow! Why shouldn't he be expert? That was his business, wasn't it?

"I'm going down that slide!" she said shortly.

Bob Swanson's voice was suddenly filled with consternation. "But you

can't do that!" he said. "That's for advanced skiers!"

Lee rarely made mistakes. Ignoring his warning, she dug her poles into the well-packed snow. Before her, the slide zig-zagged crazily and steeply into nowhere. Behind her, the wind howled, anxious to lend her speed.

"How fast . . . how fast I'm moving!" Lee breathed, the first hint of panic piercing her assurance. Her heart thumped, her pulses raced with fear and her vision blurred. What was that? A clump of trees, barring her passage? Sobbing, Lee tried to swing away from danger, but she lacked the skill.

Huddled and small, she lay in the snow, her right leg aching badly. Loneliness and pain heightened her desperation. Reality faded and she knew she was dreaming when a pair of strong arms lifted her, held her securely and carried her gently to warmth and comfort.

"Just let me wrap you in this blanket," Bob Swanson said, as he set her down, ever so carefully, on the couch in front of the lodge's roaring fireplace.

"I feel so . . . so *helpless*!" Lee thought, wondering why that feeling was so welcome, so delicious. Half-shyly, she returned the smile she had scorned only an hour ago. Where was that feeling of *independence* she had been so proud of? Lost in a snow-drift somewhere?

Groping, she found Bob's hand, which closed warmly and reassuringly over hers. "Don't leave me," she said.

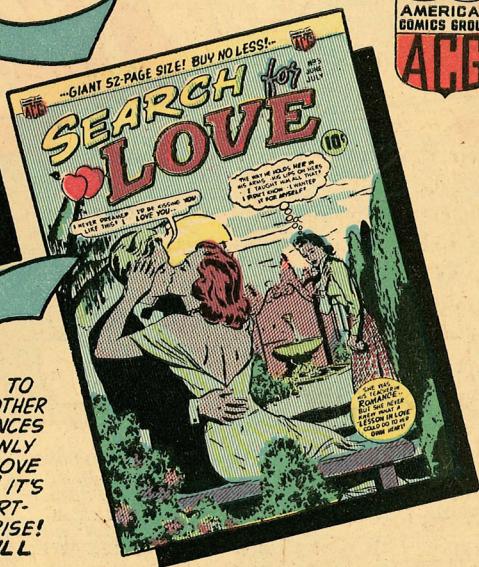
Announcing... DOUBLE-BARRELED DYNAMITE!

ONCE MORE THE AMERICAN COMICS GROUP MAKES HISTORY... WITH NOT ONE, BUT TWO OF THE GREATEST BOOKS WHICH EVER HIT THE STANDS! BY PUBLIC DEMAND...

Here they are!



New... NOVEL... A BLAZING BOMBSHELL! THRILL TO THE ROMANCE, GLAMOR AND BREATHLESS EXCITEMENT OF AMERICA'S UNSUNG HEROES! SEE UNCLE SAM'S SPY-HUNTERS AT GRIPS WITH SINISTER FOREIGN AGENTS... IN PAGES OUT OF REAL LIFE ITSELF! IT'S "MUST" READING FOR EVERY PATRIOT!



The GREAT NEW MAGAZINE THAT DARES TO BE DIFFERENT! YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANOTHER LIKE THIS ONE! THE SWEETEST ROMANCES THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN... BUT THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!! FOR THIS IS TRUE LOVE... THE KIND THAT CAN COME TO YOU! IT'S GRIPPING, PULSING... WITH EVERY HEART-THROB PACKING A PUNCH... AND A SURPRISE! IT'S THE ONE LOVE MAGAZINE YOU'LL LOVE!

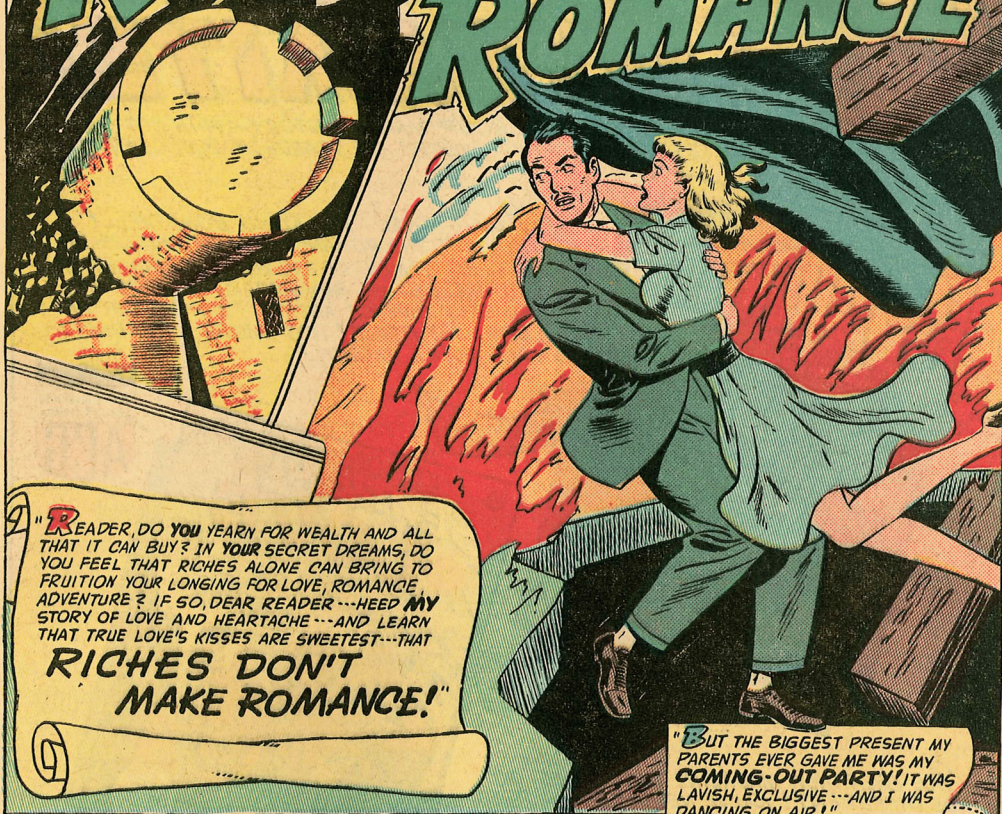
SPY-HUNTERS

SEARCH for LOVE

DON'T MISS THESE TERRIFIC TWINS!

ON SALE NOW!

RICHES *don't make* ROMANCE



"**R**EADER, DO YOU YEARN FOR WEALTH AND ALL THAT IT CAN BUY? IN YOUR SECRET DREAMS, DO YOU FEEL THAT RICHES ALONE CAN BRING TO FRUITION YOUR LONGING FOR LOVE, ROMANCE, ADVENTURE? IF SO, DEAR READER---HEED MY STORY OF LOVE AND HEARTACHE---AND LEARN THAT TRUE LOVE'S KISSES ARE SWEETEST---THAT

**RICHES DON'T
MAKE ROMANCE!"**

"**B**UT THE BIGGEST PRESENT MY PARENTS EVER GAVE ME WAS MY **COMING-OUT PARTY!** IT WAS LAVISH, EXCLUSIVE---AND I WAS DANCING ON AIR!"

"**M**Y EARLIEST MEMORIES ARE OF FABULOUS WEALTH AND LUXURY--- I GREW UP AS INDULGED AND CODDLED AS A ROYAL PRINCESS!"

"**E**VERYTHING I WANTED, I GOT ---MY WHOLE LIFE WAS A CHILD'S DREAM COME TRUE!"

NOW, ANNIE---LET'S MAKE A LITTLE **BUSINESS** DEAL! IF YOU GO UP TO BED RIGHT NOW, TOMORROW I'LL BUY YOU A NEW WHITE PONY!

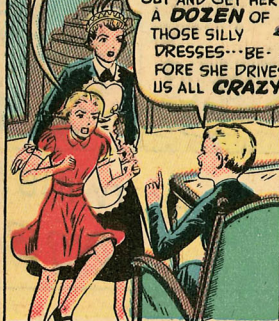
OH,
**GOODY,
GOODY!**

**I WANT A SILK PARTY
DRESS! I WANT IT!**

MISS DEVILLE, GO
OUT AND GET HER
A **DOZEN**
OF THOSE SILLY
DRESSES---BE-
FORE SHE DRIVES
US ALL **CRAZY!**

MY, ISN'T
SHE
LOVELY!

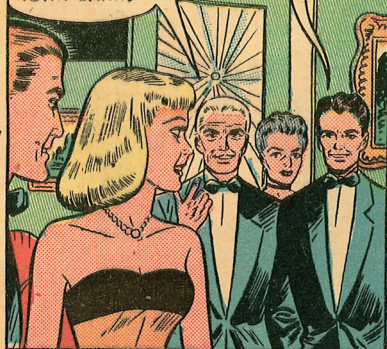
DO YOU REALIZE
WHAT THIS PARTY
MUST HAVE **COST?**
DINNER FOR 700!
A 60-PIECE BAND!
CHAMPAGNE FLOWING
LIKE THE OIL IN HER
FATHER'S FIELDS!



"**A**S I WAS TALKING TO SOME OF THE GUESTS--- I SAW MY MOTHER AND FATHER BECKONING ME---"

ANNIE, DARLING---YOUR MOTHER AND I WANT YOU TO MEET **CHRISTOPHER VAN SHILLING**, HIS FATHER'S THE PRESIDENT OF THE CORAL-TOWN BANK!

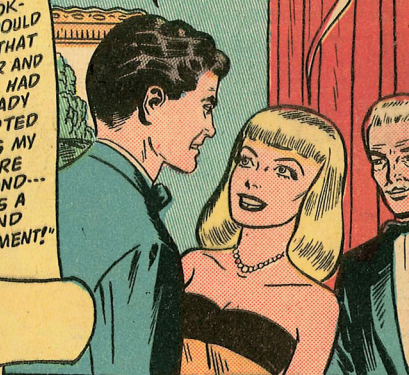
DELIGHTED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE!



"HE SEEMED RATHER STUFFY, BUT HE **WAS** NICE-LOOKING! I COULD TELL THAT MOTHER AND FATHER HAD ALREADY SELECTED HIM AS MY FUTURE HUSBAND--- HE WAS A SOUND INVESTMENT!"

WOULD YOU CARE TO DANCE, MISS KENNEDY?

WHY, I'D LOVE TO!



I'VE HEARD A **GREAT** DEAL ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, MISS KENNEDY! INDEED! WHY, MY FATHER ALWAYS SAYS THERE ARE ONLY TWO **REALLY SUCCESSFUL MEN** IN THIS TOWN---YOUR FATHER AND HIMSELF!



AFTER THAT, CHRIS AND I WERE TOGETHER OFTEN---IT ALL SEEMED TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY OUR PARENTS! BUT---ONE EVENING---WHEN HE BROUGHT ME HOME---

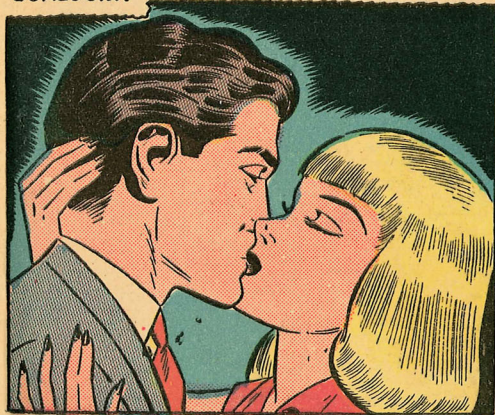


ANN, DEAR! WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR SIX WEEKS NOW AND---AND---

YES, CHRIS?



"**I**T WAS THE FIRST TIME CHRIS KISSED ME---YET---WHERE WAS THE **THRILL**? WHERE WAS THE CHURNING HEARTBEAT OF RAPTUREOUS FIRST LOVE? I FELT ONLY **BOREDOM**!"



"**A** FEW DAYS LATER, FATHER CALLED ME TO HIS LIBRARY---AND I KNEW THAT MEANT SOMETHING **IMPORTANT**!"

NOW, SEE HERE, ANNIE DEAR! A GOOD BUSINESS-MAN KNOWS WHEN TO MAKE A MOVE---AND I THINK IT'S TIME **YOU DID!**

WHY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, FATHER?



MARRIAGE, OF COURSE! MARRYING INTO THE VAN SHILLING FAMILY IS AN EMINENTLY **SOUND** THING TO DO... AFTER ALL, IT'S TIME YOU STARTED PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE! YOU KNOW I WANT YOU ALWAYS TO HAVE ALL THE SECURITY AND COMFORT YOU NOW ENJOY!

BUT... BUT... YOU CAN GIVE ME EVERYTHING I WANT, CAN'T YOU?

"FOR JUST A MOMENT, A LOOK I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE CLOUDED FATHER'S EYES... AND FRIGHTENED ME!"

WELL... I... I... THAT IS... I THINK SO, DARLING, BUT AT THE SAME TIME... YOU MUST PLAY **SAFE**, LIKE A GOOD BUSINESSMAN! BESIDES, IT'S **TIME** FOR YOU TO MARRY!



"CHRIS WAS A SWEET BOY... BUT I COULDN'T ASSOCIATE ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE WITH HIM! YET... HE WAS A VAN SHILLING... AND WHAT COULD BE MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN THE CORALTOWN BANK? AND SO IT HAPPENED THAT..."

THE ARRANGEMENTS SEEM PERFECT, SIR! WE'LL BE MARRIED ON THE 20TH!

CONGRATULATIONS, CHILDREN! I'LL MAKE IT A WEDDING PARTY AT THE WALDORF LIKE THE ONE OF WHICH NEW YORK HAS NEVER SEEN BEFORE!



"AND THEN... A WEEK LATER... A NEWSPAPER HEADLINE CHANGED THE WHOLE COMPLEXION OF MY LIFE!"

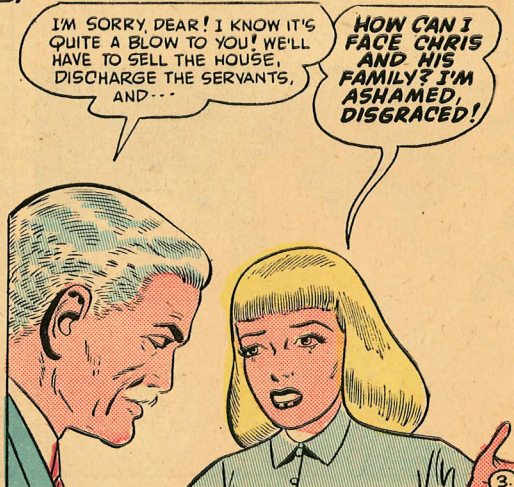


FATHER! FATHER! IS THIS TRUE? TELL ME... I MUST KNOW!

I'M AFRAID... IT IS TRUE!

I'M SORRY, DEAR! I KNOW IT'S QUITE A BLOW TO YOU! WE'LL HAVE TO SELL THE HOUSE, DISCHARGE THE SERVANTS, AND...

HOW CAN I FACE CHRIS AND HIS FAMILY? I'M ASHAMED, DISGRACED!



I--- I'VE THOUGHT OF THAT, CHILD! I CAN'T AFFORD IT NOW, BUT---SOMEHOW, I'M GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH THAT BIG WEDDING AT THE WALDORF! I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL DISGRACED! I'M WILLING TO SPEND MY VERY LAST PENNY TO SEE THAT YOU'RE TAKEN CARE OF FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

THAT'S THE LEAST YOU CAN DO! YOU'VE RUINED ALL MY PLANS, MY DREAMS!

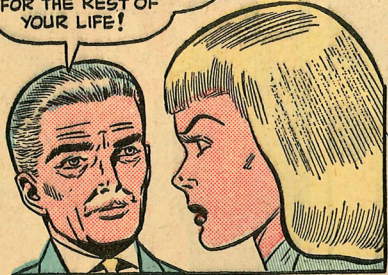
"THAT NIGHT..."

CHRIS, LET'S BE FRANK--- YOU SAW THE PAPER, DIDN'T YOU? YOU KNOW ABOUT---MY FATHER? TELL ME, DOES IT--- DOES IT **CHANGE** ANYTHING BETWEEN US?

CHANGE ANYTHING? UH---WHY, NO, ANN, OF COURSE NOT! I MEAN, THAT IS---

"HIS EYES DIDN'T MEET MINE AS HE SPOKE---HIS VOICE WAS EVASIVE! IN A MOUNTING PANIC..."

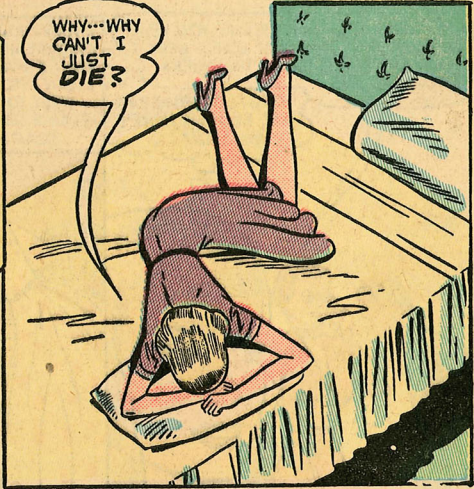
CHRIS! DO YOU STILL LOVE ME? DO YOU STILL WANT TO MARRY ME? TELL ME!



I- UH, YOU SEE, ANN---MOTHER AND FATHER TALKED TO ME---AND---AND---WELL, THEY THINK THAT---WELL, MAYBE YOU'D BE HAPPIER NOW WITH SOMEBODY FROM---WELL, **YOUR OWN CLASS!**

"I HAD JUST ENOUGH PRIDE LEFT TO ORDER HIM OUT--- BEFORE Hysteria OVERTOOK ME! POWER AND WEALTH---WHERE WERE THEY **NOW?** LOOKING INTO A BLACK FUTURE, I WEPT HEART-BROKENLY..."

WHY---WHY CAN'T I JUST DIE?

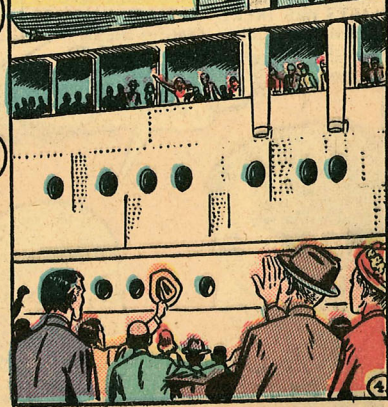
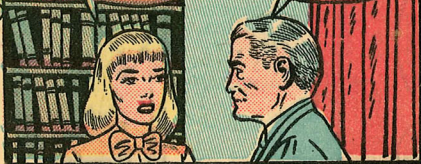


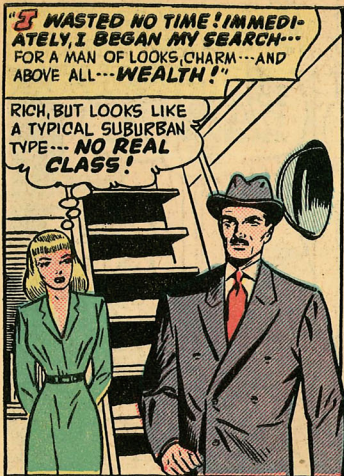
"ALL NIGHT I LAY IN MY ROOM, STUNNED BY THE SUDDEN TRAGEDY WHICH HAD SHATTERED MY LIFE! ALL MY DREAMS AND HOPES LAY BROKEN ABOUT ME! AND THEN, SOMEHOW--- AS DAWN STREAKED THE SKY---A NEW DETERMINATION ROSE OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF MY SUFFERING!"

FATHER, MY MARRIAGE TO CHRIS IS ALL OFF---YOU'VE RUINED IT BY YOUR STUPID FAILURE IN BUSINESS! **BUT I PROMISE YOU---I'M NOT GOING TO BE POOR! IF YOU CAN'T SUPPORT ME---AND CHRIS WON'T---WHY, I'LL FIND SOMEBODY WHO CAN AND WILL! FATHER, I'M GOING ABROAD---AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET THE MONEY TO PAY FOR IT!**

PLEASE DON'T SHOUT AT ME, ANN! I'M A BEATEN MAN---A FAILURE! IF YOU WANT TO GO ABROAD---I---I'LL GIVE YOU THE MONEY I HAD SAVED FOR THE WEDDING! GOODNESS KNOWS, IT'S ALL I HAVE LEFT--- BUT I WANT YOU TO TAKE IT! **I WANT YOU TO FIND SECURITY AND COMFORT HOWEVER YOU CAN!**

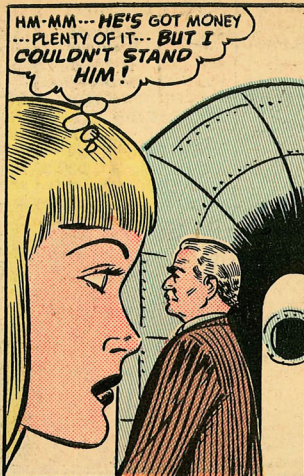
"AND SO I BOOKED FIRST-CLASS PASSAGE ON THE LUXURY LINER **LA PARADISO**---AND SAILED ON MY QUEST FOR GOLDEN ADVENTURE AND LAVISH WEALTH!"





"I WASTED NO TIME! IMMEDIATELY, I BEGAN MY SEARCH... FOR A MAN OF LOOKS, CHARM... AND ABOVE ALL... WEALTH!"

RICH, BUT LOOKS LIKE A TYPICAL SUBURBAN TYPE... NO REAL CLASS!



HM-MM... HE'S GOT MONEY... PLENTY OF IT... BUT I COULDN'T STAND HIM!



"I SEARCHED, SEARCHED! FINALLY... ONE EVENING..."

HE'S MORE LIKE IT! YOUNG... HANDSOME... TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! PROBABLY TURN OUT TO BE AS POOR AS A CHUCK MOUSE!



WHY, COUNT DUPRE! FANCY SEEING YOU HERE! WE HAVEN'T MET SINCE THAT LOVELY WEEK I SPENT AT YOUR CASTLE ON THE RIVIERA BEFORE THE WAR!

CASTLE? RIVIERA? OH, BROTHER, HERE'S MY MAN!



I VOWED TO ENSNARE HIM... CAPTURE HIM! HE WAS THE MAN I WAS LOOKING FOR! I GOT INTO MY BEST GOWN... WENT TO THE SHIP'S DANCE... AND SET MY TRAP!



OH, MY PURSE! IT'S GONE... STOLEN!

PARDON ME, MADEMOISELLE... MAY I OFFER MY ASSISTANCE? MY NAME IS COUNT, JACQUES DUPRE!



THIS PURSE... WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE? WHERE WAS IT LOST? WAS THERE MUCH MONEY IN IT?

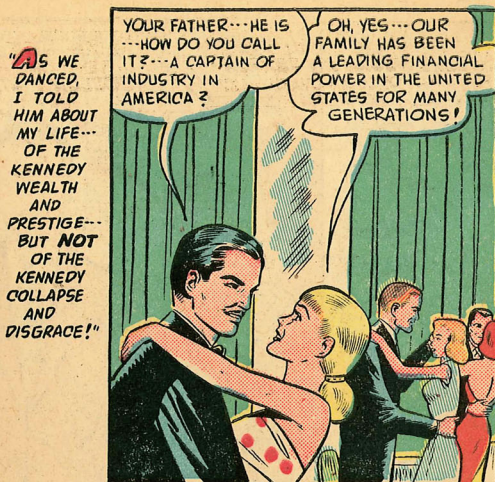
I HAD IT WITH ME A MOMENT AGO AT THE TABLE HERE... A BLACK ALLIGATOR BAG!... THERE WAS NOTHING TO SPEAK OF INSIDE... JUST A COUPLE OF THOUSAND DOLLARS!

SMILING TO MYSELF, I WATCHED THE COUNT SEARCH FOR THE PURSE I HAD CAREFULLY PLACED UNDER THE TABLE! I KNEW I WAS APPEALING TO HIS CHIVALRY... IT WAS LIKE LEADING A LAMB TO SLAUGHTER!"

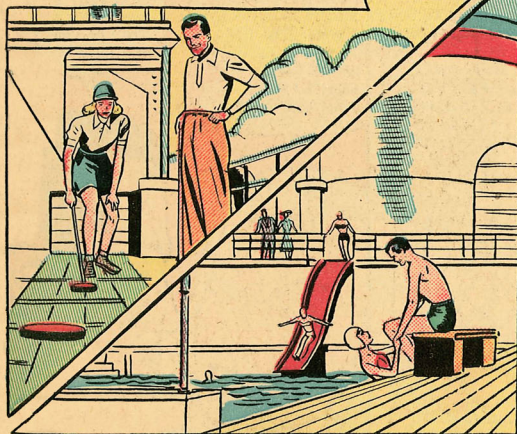


AH... I HAVE IT!

OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH! IS THERE... IS THERE ANYTHING AT ALL I CAN DO TO REPAY YOU?



"FROM THAT DAY ON... I MADE SURE THAT JACQUES AND I
WERE TOGETHER ALMOST EVERY MOMENT!"



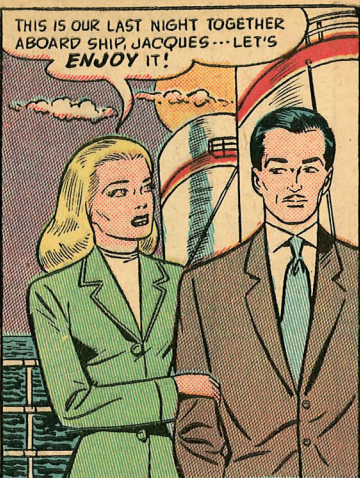
"I BEGAN TO
REALIZE THAT
IT WAS NOT
JUST HIS WEALTH
... I WAS FALLING
IN LOVE WITH
JACQUES! I
VOWED I WOULD
MARRY HIM...
YET I BECAME
INCREASINGLY
AWARE OF A
CERTAIN RE-
SISTANCE IN
HIS ATTITUDE
TOWARD ME!
SOMETHING
WAS KEEPING
HIM FROM
LOVING ME!"



"HIS VOICE TOLD ME THAT I WAS LOSING HIM... THAT HE WAS SLIPPING AWAY! I KNEW I HAD TO SMASH THROUGH HIS RESISTANCE TONIGHT... BEFORE THE SHIP ARRIVED IN FRANCE! TONIGHT OR NEVER!"



THIS IS OUR LAST NIGHT TOGETHER ABOARD SHIP, JACQUES... LET'S ENJOY IT!



"FATE WAS ON MY SIDE! IT WAS A NIGHT MADE FOR POETRY... THE MOON GLISTENING ON THE WATER... A STAR-SPANGLED SKY..."

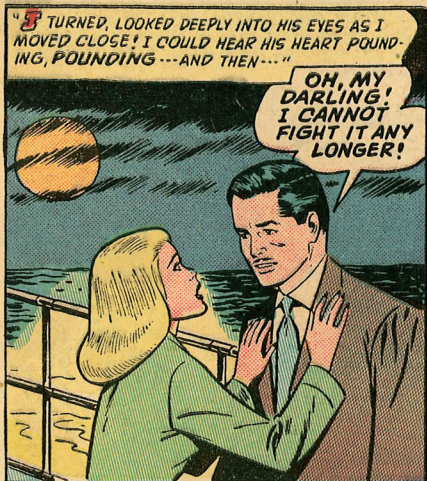


JACQUES, DEAR, ISN'T IT GORGEOUS? A NIGHT FOR JOY, FOR LOVE!

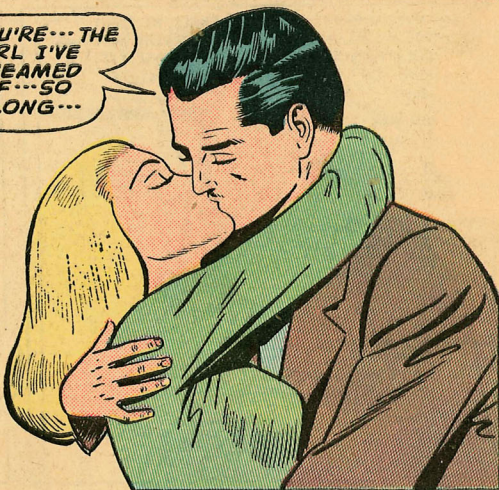


"I TURNED, LOOKED DEEPLY INTO HIS EYES AS I MOVED CLOSE! I COULD HEAR HIS HEART POUNDING, POUNDING... AND THEN..."

OH, MY DARLING! I CANNOT FIGHT IT ANY LONGER!

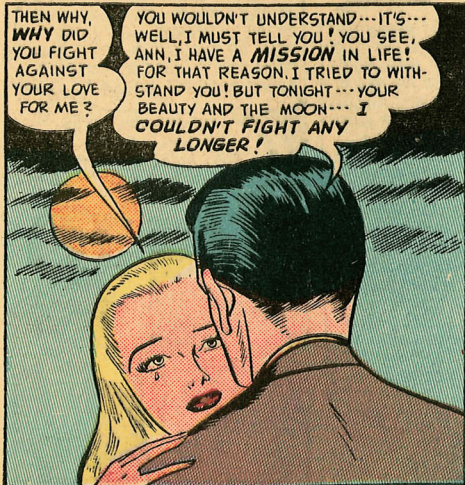


YOU'RE... THE GIRL I'VE DREAMED OF... SO LONG...



THEN WHY, WHY DID YOU FIGHT AGAINST YOUR LOVE FOR ME?

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND... IT'S... WELL, I MUST TELL YOU! YOU SEE, ANN, I HAVE A MISSION IN LIFE! FOR THAT REASON, I TRIED TO WITHSTAND YOU! BUT TONIGHT... YOUR BEAUTY AND THE MOON... I COULDN'T FIGHT ANY LONGER!



"I WONDERED WHAT 'MISSION' JACQUES HAD IN LIFE... BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE? ...I COULD THINK ONLY OF THE FUTURE!"



WE'LL HAVE SUCH FUN IN FRANCE! YOUR COUNTRY! I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME ALL THE IMPORTANT SIGHTS! WILL YOU, DARLING?

YES! I'LL SHOW YOU ALL THE IMPORTANT THINGS TO SEE!



"**I** THRILLED IN ANTICIPATION OF ALL THE RICH INTOXICATION OF BEAUTIFUL PARIS! YES, THERE'D BE THE LOUVRE, THE EIFFEL TOWER, THE GAY NIGHT SPOTS OF THE MONTMARTRE... JACQUES WOULD SHOW ME THEM ALL! BUT... INSTEAD..."



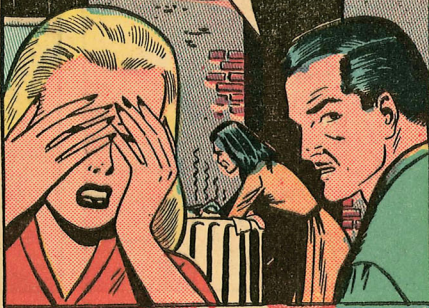
BUT... BUT WHY DID YOU TAKE ME TO THIS AWFUL PLACE? IT'S... **HORRIBLE!**



YOU ASKED ME TO SHOW YOU THE MOST IMPORTANT SIGHTS IN EUROPE... WELL, HERE'S **ONE** OF THEM! HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

PLEASE... TAKE ME AWAY FROM THESE FILTHY PEOPLE! THEY'RE **DISGUSTING!**

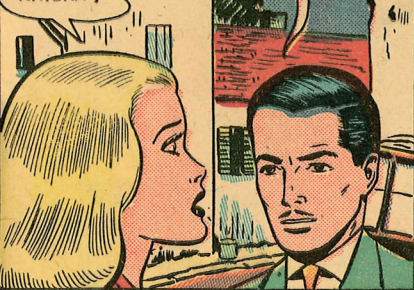
DO YOU THINK SO? YOU SEE, I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT **THEY'RE** THE PEOPLE WHO COUNT... THE **LITTLE** PEOPLE, WHOSE LIVES WERE UPROOTED BY THE WAR! NOT THE FANCY SOCIALITES WHO VACATION AT THE RIVIERA!



"**WHAT** DID IT ALL MEAN? WAS HE TEASING ME? HIS VOICE WAS HARD, BORE AN EDGE OF CONTEMPT WHEN HE SPOKE TO ME... **WHY?**"

BUT... BUT... YOU YOURSELF ARE RICH AND... AND DON'T YOU HAVE A CASTLE ON THE RIVIERA?

YES... AND I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU THERE TO SHOW IT TO YOU!



"**FINALLY** THE CASTLE LOOMED BEFORE US... GIGANTIC, SUBSTANTIAL!... **THIS** WAS WHERE I LONGED TO LIVE... WITH JACQUES!"



OH, IT'S **BEAUTIFUL!** BUT WHAT ARE ALL THOSE WORKERS DOING THERE? REPAIRING THE CASTLE?

YES... IT WAS BOMBED DURING THE WAR! BUT THAT IS NOT ALL... THEY ARE ALSO CONVERTING IT INTO A **BARRACKS FOR HOUSING!** YOU SEE, I AM MAKING MY CASTLE AND ALL MY FUNDS AVAILABLE TO HOUSE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS AS A RESULT OF THE WAR!



WHAT? ARE YOU **CRAZY?**

MAYBE! BUT WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD IS UPSIDE DOWN AND PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING... I CANNOT CLOSE MY EYES AND COUNT MY MONEY! HELPING THESE PEOPLE... **THAT** IS MY MISSION IN LIFE!



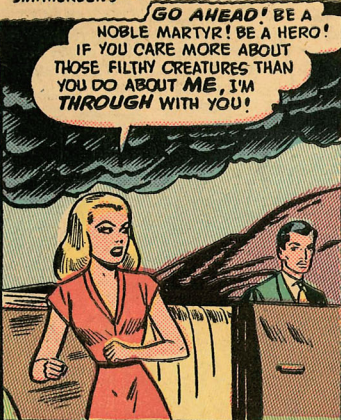
"**ALL** MY FOND DREAMS... OF BEING THE MISTRESS OF A CASTLE... A COUNTESS... HAVING WEALTH, PRESTIGE... ALL BEGAN TO CRUMBLE UNDER THE IMPACT OF HIS WORDS!"

BUT... BUT JACQUES, DEAR... IT'S FINE TO BE PHILANTHROPIC AND HELP PEOPLE A **BIT**... BUT **MUST** YOU GIVE YOUR CASTLE AND ALL YOUR MONEY AWAY?

YOU'RE **SELFISH**, ANN... SPOILED BY TOO MUCH MONEY AND LUXURY! I SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MY BETTER JUDGMENT AND REJECTED YOU! **THAT** WAS WHY I FOUGHT AGAINST LOVING YOU! AND NOW THAT I **KNOW** WHAT YOU'RE LIKE... I **NEVER** WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

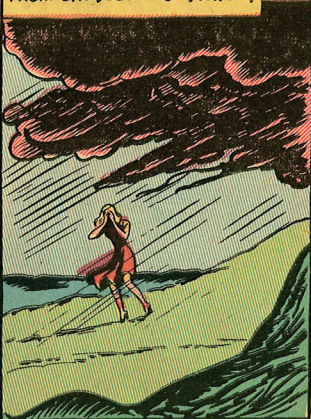


"TREMBLING WITH SHAME...WITH THE AGONIZING PAIN OF A HEART BROKEN TO SMITHEREENS..."



"GO AHEAD! BE A NOBLE MARTYR! BE A HERO! IF YOU CARE MORE ABOUT THOSE FILTHY CREATURES THAN YOU DO ABOUT ME, I'M THROUGH WITH YOU!"

"BROKEN, DISILLUSIONED, I STUMBLED OFF...WANTING ONLY TO GET AWAY FROM JACQUES...TO THINK!"



"OBVIOUS TO THE DARKENING CLOUDS ABOVE ME, I WALKED ON, BITTER AND GRIEFSTRICKEN!"



HOW...HOW COULD HE CAST ME ASIDE FOR THAT STUPID PLAN OF HIS? IF...IF HE REALLY LOVED ME, HE'D FORGET ALL ABOUT THIS NONSENSE!

"SUDDENLY, THE SKY SEEMED TO SPLIT ASUNDER AS THUNDER BOOMED AND ANGRY BOLTS OF LIGHTNING SPLIT THE AIR! TERRIFIED, I RAN TO THE NEAREST HOUSE..."



PLEASE! LET ME IN!

I WAS WALKING AND...AND I DIDN'T REALIZE A STORM WAS COMING UP! MAY I COME IN OUT OF THE RAIN?

OF COURSE, CHILD! GET OUT OF YOUR WET CLOTHES - I'LL GIVE YOU MY DRESS!...MARCEL, GO IN THE KITCHEN AND GET MADEMOISELLE SOME HOT TEA!



"IN THAT BLEAK, POVERTY-RIDDEN HOUSE FROM THESE COMPLETE STRANGERS...I LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT KINDNESS AND PURITY OF HEART!"

WHAT...WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR BOY'S FOOT?

OUR HOUSE WAS BOMBED BY THE NAZIS DURING THE WAR - MY HUSBAND WAS KILLED...MARCEL HERE ALMOST LOST HIS LEG! BUT MONSIEUR JACQUES DUPRE - HE FIX OUR HOUSE! HE PAY FOR DOCTORS FOR MARCEL...AND NOW THEY SAY MARCEL WILL SOON WALK AGAIN! AH, JACQUES DUPRE - HE IS LIKE A MAN FROM HEAVEN! DO YOU PERHAPS KNOW OF HIM, MADEMOISELLE?



"S" SAW THE TEARS SHINING IN HER EYES - THE LOOK OF HOPE ON THE CHILD'S FACE...AND REALIZED THAT, UNTIL THAT MOMENT, I HADN'T REALLY KNOWN JACQUES! BUT NOW I DID! HE WAS THE MAN I LOVED...THE ONLY MAN I COULD EVER LOVE! HOW STUPID, HOW BLIND, HOW SELFISH I HAD BEEN!...SUDDENLY THERE WERE SCREAMS AND SHOUTS OUTSIDE!"

THE CASTLE! HIT BY LIGHTNING! IT'S ON FIRE!



"MY POUNDING HEART SEEMED TO LEAD WINGS TO MY FEET AS I RACED TOWARDS THE DOOMED STRUCTURE..."



WHERE IS JACQUES DUPRE?
WHERE IS HE?

INSIDE...THE CASTLE! HE WON'T LEAVE...HE'S LIKE A WILD MAN TRYING TO SAVE A DREAM...AND THE FIRE'S TRAPPED HIM!



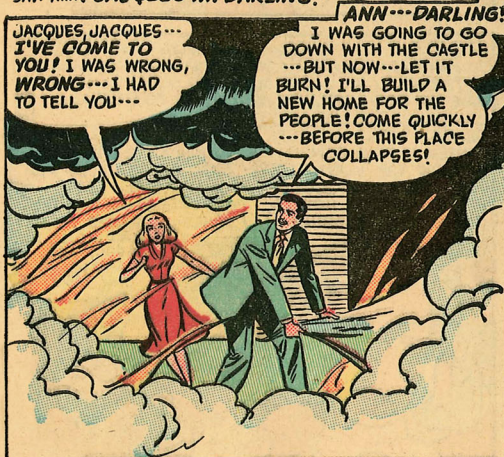
"JACQUES WAS IN THE CASTLE! HE NEEDED ME! AND, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, I HAD TO REACH HIM, BEG HIS FORGIVENESS!"



JACQUES!
JACQUES!

NO! COME OUT OF THERE!
YOU'LL BE KILLED!

"THEN...THROUGH A CLOUD OF SUFFOCATING SMOKE...I SAW HIM! JACQUES-MY DARLING!"

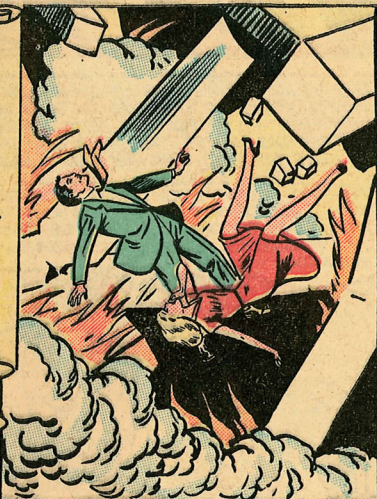


ANN...DARLING!

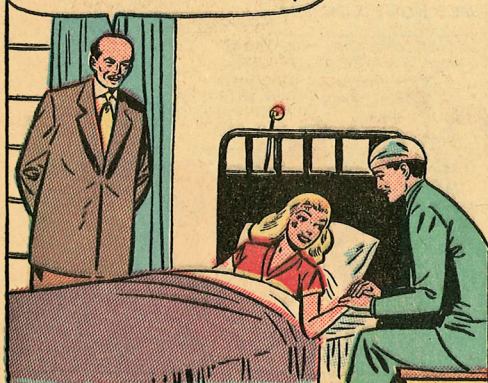
JACQUES, JACQUES...
I'VE COME TO YOU!
I WAS WRONG,
WRONG...I HAD
TO TELL YOU...

I WAS GOING TO GO
DOWN WITH THE CASTLE
...BUT NOW...LET IT
BURN! I'LL BUILD A
NEW HOME FOR THE
PEOPLE! COME QUICKLY
...BEFORE THIS PLACE
COLLAPSES!

"BUT THAT
MOMENT, A
RENDING,
RIPPING
SOUND! THE
WHOLE
WORLD
SEEMED
TO BE
SPINNING,
SMASHING...
AND WE
WERE FLY-
ING SICK-
ENINGLY
THROUGH
THE
AIR!"

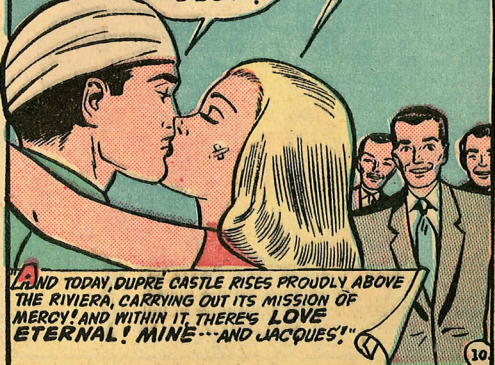


YOU'RE BOTH LUCKY...ONLY CUTS AND
BRUISES...NOTHING SERIOUS! YOU'LL BE
UP AND AROUND IN A FEW DAYS! RIGHT
NOW...YOU HAVE SOME VISITORS!



THE PEOPLE, ANN...MY PEOPLE!
THEY'VE HEARD THAT THE CASTLE
WILL BE REBUILT, WITH A NEW
MISTRESS! YOU...THE GIRL
I LOVE!

SWEETHEART!

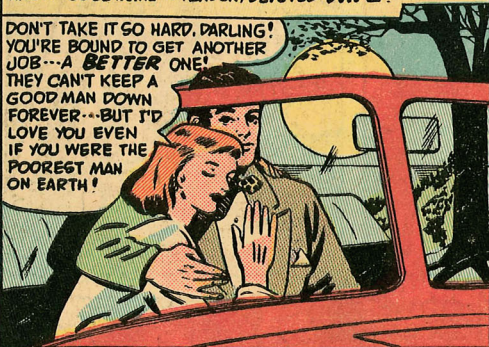


AND TODAY, DUPRE CASTLE RISES PROUDLY ABOVE
THE RIVIERA, CARRYING OUT ITS MISSION OF
MERCY! AND WITHIN IT, THERE'S LOVE
ETERNAL! MINE...AND JACQUES!

DATING DO'S and DON'TS

DO BE SYMPATHETIC AND CONSIDERATE ON A DATE WHEN YOUR BOYFRIEND IS MOODY AND DEPRESSED BECAUSE OF A STREAK OF BAD LUCK IN HIS FINANCES OR CAREER! IF YOU'RE KIND AND UNDERSTANDING, HE'LL KNOW YOU'LL MAKE A TENDER, DEVOTED WIFE!

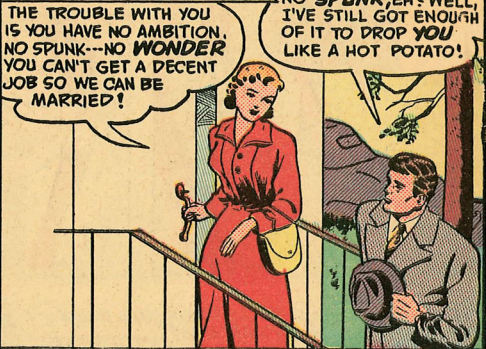
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, DARLING! YOU'RE BOUND TO GET ANOTHER JOB...A BETTER ONE! THEY CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN FOREVER...BUT I'D LOVE YOU EVEN IF YOU WERE THE POOREST MAN ON EARTH!



DON'T NAG YOUR BOYFRIEND AND TRY TO CHANGE HIM AGAINST HIS WILL! NAGGING WILL ONLY ALIENATE HIM --- AND IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT HIM THE WAY HE IS, HE'LL GO TO SOMEONE WHO WILL!

THE TROUBLE WITH YOU IS YOU HAVE NO AMBITION. NO SPUNK---NO WONDER YOU CAN'T GET A DECENT JOB SO WE CAN BE MARRIED!

NO SPUNK, EH? WELL, I'VE STILL GOT ENOUGH OF IT TO DROP YOU LIKE A HOT POTATO!



DO BE HONEST WHEN TELLING A NEW DATE ABOUT YOURSELF! EVEN IF YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN DULL AND UNINTERESTING UP TILL NOW, HE'LL ADMIRE YOU FOR NOT PUTTING ON AIRS --- AND HE'LL LIKE THE IDEA OF BEING THE FIRST EXCITING MAN IN YOUR LIFE!

OH, THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO TELL ABOUT MYSELF... MY LIFE HASN'T BEEN VERY UNUSUAL OR ROMANTIC...

WELL, FROM THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU, IT WILL BE ROMANTIC FROM NOW ON!



DON'T TELL LIES ABOUT YOURSELF IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE YOURSELF GLAMOROUS IN HIS EYES! SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL BE FOUND OUT--- AND THEN YOU WON'T HAVE ANY DATE LEFT EVEN TO TELL THE TRUTH TO!

OH, YES, I SPENT ALL LAST WINTER AT PALM BEACH--- AND HAD THE MOST GLORIOUS TIME THERE, STAYING AT THE BEST HOTELS, GOING NIGHTCLUBBING---

WHY, THE LITTLE LIAR! I REMEMBER BOB TELLING ME HE DATED HER UP HERE ALL LAST WINTER!--AS SOON AS THIS DANCE IS OVER, I'LL FIND AN EXCUSE TO DUCK AWAY AND LEAVE HER!



DO BE GENEROUS ABOUT LETTING YOUR BOYFRIEND SPEND SOME TIME WITH OTHER GIRLS IN THE CROWD! HE'LL ADMIRE YOU FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE IN YOUR CHARMS WHEN HE SEES YOU AREN'T AFRAID OF LOSING HIM!

HERE, BETTY, WHY DON'T YOU PLAY WITH JACK FOR A WHILE? I'LL GO SEE WHAT THE REST

OKAY... BUT HURRY BACK---BEFORE I GET LONE-SOME FOR YOU!

OF THE GANG IS DOING!



DON'T BE THE POSSESSIVE TYPE! DON'T MAKE YOUR BOYFRIEND FEEL AS IF YOU'RE TRYING TO CHAIN HIM TO YOU---BECAUSE IF HE'S ANYTHING OF A MAN, HE'LL BUST LOOSE!

OH, COME AWAY FROM THOSE STUPID FRIENDS OF YOURS, DARLING! WHY BOTHER WITH THEM ---WHEN YOU'VE GOT ME?

LOOK, YOU DON'T OWN ME YET--- AND AS LONG AS I'VE GOT A MIND OF MY OWN, YOU NEVER WILL!



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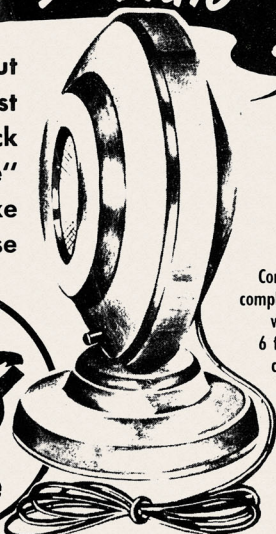
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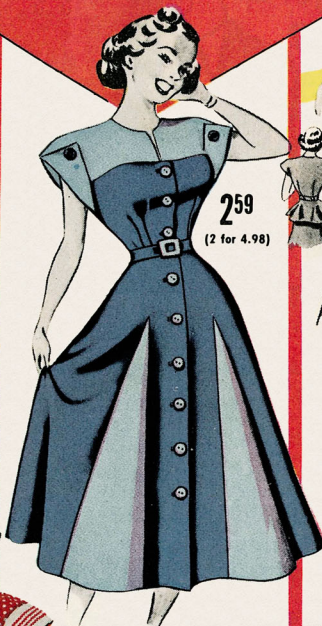


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